

## Membership

### **CONTINUING TO BUILD MEMBERSHIP WITH THE COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE!**

As laid out in the 2025-26 Membership Program, we will be continue issuing quarterly challenges to our Posts and rewarding those who lead their divisions in recruiting as well as Life Member upgrades. Every quarter (April 1 – June 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 we near the conclusion of the membership year, we want everyone to remember the goals that the Commander-in-Chief has set out in her 2025-26 Membership Program:

- Achieve 101% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member
- Increase membership drives and/or events
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership

### **MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES:**

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into [vfw.org](https://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](https://vfw.org), under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2026-2027 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](http://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](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

## **NEW POST DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT GRANT**

For each new Post chartered the Department Quartermaster will receive a \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post. Department Commanders and Quartermasters may apply for this grant directly through the National Membership Department.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives view the Commander-in-Chief’s National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

Membership Monday training webinars will be June 8, 2026, at 7:00PM, CDT, Topic: Year-End Wrap-up and Roundtable Discussion. All VFW and Auxiliary members are welcome to attend and engage in the interactive training by following the link on our VFW Membership Facebook page, <https://facebook.com/VFWMembership>. This training will be recorded and made available through the *Training & Support* section of [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) following the presentation. We urge you to pass along this information to all who would be interested.

## **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life Members and is now available in memoriam for past Life Members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

### **Enrollment Cost:**

### **Annual Payouts:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>		<b><u>Posts</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
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 April 2026

Timothy M. Borland – 657 members  
VFW Post 9972, Dept of AZ

Ronald N. McKinnon – 476 members  
VFW Post 12205, Dept of TX

Steven L. Woodward – 377 members  
VFW Post 2224, Dept of WA

These comrades along with 15 others have crossed the 100-members-recruited mark this year! How many of you will be joining them?

## VFW Foundation

VFW Sr. Vice Commander Cory Giseler, VFW Foundation Board Member Sean Kingsbury and Jason Couch, VFW Grants Manager, recently traveled to The Tactical Games HQ in Georgetown, Texas for a site visit. The Tactical Games is a leader and innovative force at the intersection of tactical fitness, firearms training, and competitive athletics, bringing together a passionate community of athletes dedicated to pushing their limits. Over the course of several days, the trio participated in two workout sessions, spent a day learning pistol fundamentals and putting them into practice on the range, and followed that with a day dedicated to rifle fundamentals and shooting. What they experienced was a firsthand look at an extraordinary culture built on discipline, excellence, and a deep commitment to the men and women who have served our nation.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations, Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org)

## 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.*

**Summer Calendar Mailing** – Great news! The 2027 VFW “Fly the Flag” Wall Calendar will be coming out in July! And a bonus 2027 VFW “American Songbirds” calendar will be included with it. They will have all the important dates to fly your United States flag, important holidays as well as information on many of the programs the VFW has to offer to our veterans, service members and their families. Be on the lookout for them to arrive early next month!

**Independence Day is Coming Up** – The VFW is preparing for a special online celebration of freedom with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) to find ways you can honor our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

**July Matching Gift Campaign** – Also coming up next month, good friends of the VFW are extending an offer to **triple your donation**. By sending back one of the vouchers included in your package, your generosity will help fellow protectors get the vital support they need — times three!

**Do Not Forget Your Digital Estate** - When creating or updating your estate plans, most of your time will be spent determining your assets and deciding which people and charities will receive items after your lifetime. But do not forget about your “digital estate,” like email accounts, websites, streaming services and more. Your passwords and online accounts are an important, and often overlooked, part of your estate plan. Learn how to safeguard your “digital estate” by visiting <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/do-not-forget-digital-estate>. The VFW Planned Giving Office is here to help if you have questions. Call us at 816.968.1119 or email us at [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto: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 by 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](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says “Find Out What’s Happening” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also 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](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools).

## Marketing Communications

With the 127th VFW National Convention next month, are you ready? Whether you’re heading to Reno or not, you can stay in-the-know by watching as we begin livestreaming at [vfw.org/Convention](http://vfw.org/Convention) starting July 26.

For those planning to attend, the new VFW Events App will be available mid-July for download in both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching “VFW Events.”

When you’re onsite, be sure to share your convention experience and join in the social conversation using **#VFWConvention**.

# Veterans & Military Support Programs

## **127th National Convention – Reno, Nevada**

As we continue to plan for the **2026 National Convention**, there is a new **VMS Keychain** for the **2026-27 Program year!** ADJs/QMs will be able to pre-order their keychains and will be able to pick them up at the convention again this year. Notification and order forms have already been emailed out. If your Department has an outstanding balance from last year, you will need to remedy that before you can pre-order for this year.

## **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at [mherron@vfw.org](mailto:mherron@vfw.org) or 816-968-1102.

## **Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds**

Be advised that the VFW MAP Grant is now closed for the remainder of the 2025-26 program year. Funds have been depleted. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at [M.A.P@vfw.org](mailto:M.A.P@vfw.org) – 816.756.3390 ext. 6287.

## **VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”**

**The Fall 2026 Semester** is now closed. The **Spring 2027 Semester** applications open Aug. 1 through Nov. 15, 2026. The application is only available online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship).

## **All-American Eligibility**

To qualify for **All-American**, a **minimum donation of \$125** must be donated to **VMS** by **June 30, 2026**. VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the “**VMS Donation**” tab on the **Dashboard** to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters. If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department HQs, and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily. Overseas Departments will donate to the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily.

When you make your **\$125.00** or more donation, all that needs to be entered into the box is **125** or more. The **\$** and **.00** are **not required** in the donation amount box.

**Do not use the red donate link** in the upper right-hand corner of this webpage. This is for general donation purposes only.

## **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](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL.** Please encourage Posts to read the 2025-26 VFW National Membership Program. Military Appreciation Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much 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 statistics. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.

**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 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**VFW 23rd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION.** It is time again to check out the variety of great items that are donated by our VFW Departments. Silent Auction forms have been emailed to each Department. You will be able to view and bid on these items as they are received. The bidding begins at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 25th, and goes on until Monday, July 27th, at 3 p.m. when the bidding ends. Winners may pay for their items after 3:00 p.m., Monday at a specific register at the VFW Store until 4:00 p.m.

**ATTENTION WINNING BIDDERS:** All payments for winnings bids will need to be by credit card. All major credit cards will be accepted including Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Cash App. For those winners unavailable Monday, may pay on Tuesday, July 28th, beginning at 8:00 a.m., until NOON (12:00 p.m.), when the exhibit hall closes. Items not paid and picked up after this time will be returned to VFW National Headquarters and dispersed from there. Winning bidders are contacted for a shipping address and shipping costs will be applied to their bid. If we are unable to contact that person, the item will be offered to the next highest bidder.

**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 on their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 of 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.

**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 a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [Jlinstra@vfw.org](mailto:Jlinstra@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2026–27 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen theme will be **“What a Veteran Taught Me About America.”**

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

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

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11, is designated as “Patriot Day.” The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here [vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

**“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 (Nov. 7, 2019), it is required that the POW/MIA flag, on certain federal properties, 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](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP237).

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

## VFW Member Benefits

**Don't Leave Home Without It: Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®) Has You Covered**

Every traveler's worst nightmare is a medical emergency far from home — and your health insurance likely won't cover what matters most: getting you back. That's where Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) steps in.

Since 1996, over two million travelers have relied on EA+ for year-round, worldwide travel protection. The membership fills a critical gap between standard health coverage and emergency medical transportation services that most health insurance plans never cover. Members get a personal medical support team on call 24/7 from anywhere in the world — arranging ground or air ambulance transport to an appropriate hospital and getting you home once you're stable.

Whether you're road-tripping across the country or exploring overseas, EA+ ensures that when the unexpected happens, you're never navigating it alone. Explore options and learn more [here](#).

## “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** Buddy Poppy Display contest entry forms have been sent to VFW Departments for dissemination with a copy of the rules for entry. A VFW Department officer must sign off on the form and submit it to VFW National Programs office by July 1, 2026. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 25th, until noon, Monday, July 27, 2026. Winning displays will be identified with the appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning, and announced later, on the convention floor. **Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday.** Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the exhibit hall.

**“BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> 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](http://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 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 traditional & tin tab 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.

## Member Service Center

The Member Service Center and Online Membership System will pause membership processing on Tuesday, June 30, at 6:00 p.m. CDT in preparation for the membership year-end. All membership mail received prior to 6:00 p.m. CDT (including orders faxed and phoned in) will be processed.

Shortly after 6:00 p.m., we will begin the year-end processing reports.

As in the past, IT will require a short period of time to reconcile VFW final year-end processing reports and will keep you posted as to when the system(s) will be returned to service.

## National Veterans Service

### **VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

VFW is seeking volunteers, including students who are willing to make a difference in a veteran's life through the VA Voluntary Service program. Whether you can volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly your assistance and time is priceless to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and our Nation's Veterans. VFW membership is not required to participate in this program, so encourage family, friends, and community members to support veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors! See [www.vfw.org/VolunteerService](http://www.vfw.org/VolunteerService) for more information and to contact a VFW Volunteer Representative at your local VA facilities.

# National Legislative Service/Action Corps

## VFW Testifies on Pending Legislation

VFW National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs during a pending legislation hearing. She spotlighted [H.R. 6843](#), Establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act of 2025, which would create a fourth administration within VA dedicated to economic opportunity and transition programs. Keenan explained that the VFW believes this specified leadership and resources would help veterans successfully transition to civilian life and allow VA to focus on disability claims and appeals. She also stated support for H.R. 4114, Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition (EVEST) Act, which would automatically enroll eligible transitioning service members in VA health care within 60 days of receiving necessary information from DOD, while preserving a veteran's ability to opt out. The VFW strongly supports efforts to create a seamless transition from DOD to VA to spare veterans from navigating unnecessary bureaucracy simply to access the health care they earned through their service. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#).

# Administrative Operations

The 2026-27 Department Roster is now an Online Membership System (OMS) submitted report. The interactive report will cover reporting of all Department elected and appointed officers and committee chairman. In addition, the District Election Report is also contained within the Online Membership System (OMS). Portions of the District report will feed into the Department report (i.e. the District Commander position).

Adjutants and Quartermasters can access the roster by logging into their OMS account under the "Election Report" drop down in the left-hand navigation pane. Membership numbers of each elected/appointed officer and/or chairman is needed to complete the report. Your cooperation in completing the roster immediately following your convention is appreciated. Any additions, corrections or changes will be submitted through OMS as they occur throughout the year.

## Replacement Charter - Price Increase

National Headquarters will be implementing a revision to the fee structure for charters. This adjustment applies to all requests for replacement charters, including those required due to name changes or changes in charter location.

Effective **July 1, 2026**, all such requests will be subject to the updated pricing structure below:

- \$50.00 – Date of Institution from 2003 to present
- \$75.00 – Date of Institution from 1980 to 2002
- \$100.00 – Date of Institution prior to 1980

This updated fee structure ensures we can continue to provide accurate and timely charter processing while accounting for the additional resources required.

# VFW Store

## Cashless at the 2026 National Convention

The VFW Store will be **cashless** at the 2026 National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

This change will allow for faster checkouts, shorter lines, improved accuracy, and enhanced security. Powered by Clover POS system and accepting all major credit cards including Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Cash App digital payment methods.

We appreciate your support as we make this transition to better serve you and enhance your convention experience.

## Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary this 4th of July

This year, Independence Day marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. Show your pride with apparel and more, including this new ornament (pictured at right), from the VFW Store.

Click [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly](https://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/4thofjuly). To shop for other items from the VFW Store, click [vfwstore.org](https://vfwstore.org).



# Roll Call of Departed Comrades

BANAS, EDWARD S., SR., Commander-in-Chief, 2003-2004, Regional National Council Member for Departments of Connecticut and Massachusetts, 1994-1996, Commander, Department of Connecticut, 1993-1994, and a Silver Legacy Life Member of Jewett City Post 10004, Jewett City, Connecticut, May 13, 2026.