NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

VFW VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI VOLUME 51, NO. 4 NOV. 2026

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 (Oct. 1-Dec. 31), 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:***		
Levels		***Posts***	***Departments***	***National***
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 26 October 2026

Steven L. Woodward – 157 members
VFW Post 2224, Dept of WA

Herbert G. Schwartzkopf– 130 members
VFW Post 7972, Dept of KS

Michael Boll – 111 members
VFW Post 2433, Dept of NJ

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 National Veterans Service Quarterly Supporter Newsletter – This month's edition is on its way! In this quarterly update, you'll learn about the important work of the VFW National Veterans Service on behalf of our nation's veterans. You'll read about how the VFW in Washington, D.C., is advocating for veterans' rights and legislation that affects their lives. You'll also find stories about VFW Accredited Service Officers helping veterans obtain the VA benefits they've earned – all made possible by your generous support of this essential program. If you or a fellow veteran need assistance filing a VA claim, please visit claims.vfw.org. **VA claims assistance through the VFW is completely free.**

A Christmas Gift from the VFW to You – Please watch your mail for a special package containing Christmas cards and an ornament—just for you! These gifts are our way of thanking you for being a loyal and generous supporter of the VFW. As always, we remain committed to serving veterans, service members and their families. In the accompanying letter, we also encourage you to embrace the spirit of the season by visiting a hospitalized or homebound veteran in your community. Many of these veterans experience loneliness, especially during the holidays. A visit from someone who cares can remind them that they are not forgotten. We also hope you will consider making a generous year-end gift to help the VFW continue its important work on behalf of our nation's heroes. Your support makes a difference in the lives of those who have sacrificed so much for our country. And please remember, your donations support veterans in *your Department*.

2026 Veterans Day Matching Gift Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – Last month, members of the Friends of Freedom online community received an exciting email announcing a special matching gift opportunity! A generous VFW supporter has pledged to match donations dollar for dollar, up to $50,000, through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2026.

That means your gift can make twice the difference in supporting the courageous men and women who have served our nation. Every contribution, regardless of size, can help the VFW continue its vital work on behalf of veterans, service members and their families.

If you received the matching gift email, please take advantage of this opportunity to double your impact. If you haven't received it, you can make your gift today. **Make your gift by Nov. 11 to take advantage of this matching opportunity!**

Smart Ways to Give Before 2026 Ends – Planning your year-end giving? Recent tax changes may affect how you choose to make your gift. Before making your final gift of the year, explore what's changed for 2026 and learn about tax-smart ways to support the VFW and our nation's veterans. Learn more by visiting https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/2026-year-end. Have questions? Contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or vfwplannedgiving@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 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.

Veterans & Military Support Programs

All-American Eligibility

Donating to **NVS** and **DPAA** can only be done through the **Dashboard** by going to the link **"NVS/DPAA 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 RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF ANY WEBPAGE. THIS LINK GOES TO THE GENERAL DONATION PAGE AND WILL NOT BE CREDITED AS A NVS/DPAA DONATION.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at mherron@vfw.org or 816.968.1102.

Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds

MAP Grant funds for the 2026-27 program year opened Sept. 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 or 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 open and runs through Nov. 15, 2026. The application is only available online at 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!

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 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.

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!

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER. The deadline for submitting the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is Jan. 15, 2027 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner).

The suggested deadline for Departments to have reviewed and approved their District and Post reports in the All-American Dashboard is Jan. 31. This will ensure we have accurate reporting numbers across the organization and allot us the time to remedy errors. If you are unsure how to report your participation in the All-American Dashboard or if you are having login issues to the OMS system, contact John Linstra at Jlinstra@vfw.org or 816.968.2787.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS. Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award.
The amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now totals $172,000, with the top three awards raised to $35,000, $21,000 and $15,000. The Patriot's Pen National Awards total is $55,000.

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.

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.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DEC. 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.

"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

If you're a veteran with TRICARE insurance coverage, you could still face significant out-of-pocket health care expenses. For 2026, TRICARE Select has a yearly catastrophic cap of $4,381 — and those costs can really add up.

As the exclusive provider for VFW members, SelmanCo offers a group rate on a TRICARE Supplement Insurance Plan. Rates are based on age and help cover the expenses TRICARE leaves behind, giving you added financial protection and peace of mind.

Click here to download the Exceptional Savings for Exceptional People Info Guide and learn more.

"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.

General Counsel/Legal

Veterans Who Paid Trajector Medical for VA Disability Claim Assistance Should Act Now to File a Proof of Claim in Trajector's Bankruptcy

Veterans who paid Trajector Medical, LLC, formerly known as Vet Comp & Pen Medical Consulting, LLC, for assistance obtaining or increasing their Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits may have claims in Trajector's pending bankruptcy and should act promptly to protect their rights.

During a recent hearing, the bankruptcy judge announced that the deadline for submitting claims would be extended from Oct. 31 to **Nov. 30, 2026**. A written order confirming the extension has not yet been issued. Submitting a proof of claim, by itself, does not cancel, reduce, or otherwise alter a veteran's entitlement to VA benefits.

For more information visit VFW's website or to file a claim click here. Please help us disseminate this information to our members and the veteran community.

VFW Files an Amicus Brief in Support of Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc.

VFW has filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in support of Military-Veterans Advocacy, Inc., in its challenge to Louisiana's PLUS Act. This case has implications beyond Louisiana: states should not be permitted to legitimize Claim Sharks through fee caps and disclosures that bypass federal accreditation requirements and fee restrictions designed to protect veterans.

Enacted in 2024, the PLUS Act (Act 479) purported to regulate fees charged by unaccredited individuals and companies for assistance with VA benefits claims. The U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana ruled that the Act was preempted because it conflicted with the federal framework governing VA claims representation and enjoined its enforcement. Louisiana's Attorney General appealed that ruling to the Fifth Circuit.

VFW's brief reinforces our longstanding position that those who prepare, present, and prosecute veterans' VA claims must comply with federal accreditation requirements and that no fee may be charged for assistance with an initial claim. VFW further argues that Congress has occupied the field of regulating VA claims representation and related fees, leaving states no authority to establish competing regulatory schemes. VFW's accredited service officers continue to provide claims assistance free of charge.

Veterans Guardian Litigation Advances Toward Resolution of Damages

The federal class action against Veterans Guardian continues following the court's determination that the company violated federal law by preparing and presenting VA disability claims without accreditation and charging fees for those services. On August 3, the court also found the company liable under North Carolina's unfair-trade-practices law on the surviving claims. The proceedings have now moved toward resolving damages. The rulings reinforce VFW's longstanding position that companies cannot avoid federal accreditation requirements and fee restrictions by describing claims preparation as consulting or coaching. No final damages award has been entered.

National Veterans Service

VFW VOLUNTEERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT VA

The VFW is seeking volunteers, including students age 14 and older, who want to make a difference in a veteran's life through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program. Whether you volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly, your time and support mean a great deal to veterans receiving care at VA facilities.

An example of that dedication is **Robert Sherrill of VFW Post 9785 in Alaska, who was recognized as the VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year.** Robert's efforts to support ill and injured veterans and raise awareness about suicide prevention show just how much of a difference one volunteer can make.

VFW membership is not required to participate, so encourage family, friends, and community members to get involved! We also encourage VFW Departments to continue supporting their VAVS programs and ensuring their representative and deputy positions are filled.

Visit **www.vfw.org/VolunteerService** for more information and to contact a VFW Volunteer Representative at your local VA facility. If you volunteer on behalf of the VFW, be sure to ask that your hours be credited to the VFW's VA Voluntary Service program.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

VFW Opposition to TCAVA Continues

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), H.R. 9237 / S. 4744, contains numerous provisions that would expand benefits for veterans, survivors and families, but Section 108 remains part of this legislation. The provision would reduce disability compensation for certain future veterans to help offset the cost of those expansions. With Section 108 still included, the VFW continues to oppose TCAVA, and is asking advocates to contact their representatives and senators and tell them to vote NO on this bill. Take action.

Passage of the Clean Version of the Major Richard Star Act Remains Critical

The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102) reached a significant milestone last month when the discharge petition from Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.) secured the required 218 signatures, clearing a path for the House to vote on the legislation. The final signature came from Rep. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) just hours after she met with VFW and VFW Auxiliary members who advocated for the bill. With more than 400 bipartisan cosponsors, the legislation has overwhelming support to end the unjust offset of military retirement pay for combat-injured veterans. However, the VFW remains concerned about efforts to advance a watered-down version of the legislation through the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), which includes benefit caps and would use reductions in future veterans' disability compensation to offset costs. The VFW strongly supports passage of the clean Major Richard Star Act as a standalone bill and opposes TCAVA as currently written. Congress must fulfill its obligation to combat-injured veterans without reducing benefits for future generations. There is still time while Congress is in recess to find your local town hall and ask your representative if they plan to vote YES on the Major Richard Star Act WITHOUT reducing veterans' compensation to pay for it.

VFW Store

CATALOG 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. You can also access the new catalog online in PDF format by clicking https://www.vfwstore.org/Catalog



ORNAMENTS As the holiday season approaches, collect these VFW ornaments for display: https://www.vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=holiday%20ornament



SEEDS It's not too late to order packets of poppy seeds, which can be planted in late fall to early spring. This annual blooms late April thru June and can grow 12" to 30" tall. Click https://www.vfwstore.org/products/32478