

## Membership

### **WE WANT EVERY VFW MEMBER TO BE A RECRUITER! THIS CHALLENGE IS AIMED AT OUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS!**

Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has issued a challenge for the month of April 2023 to all VFW members to get out there and tell eligible veterans about Life membership and the Life Membership Installment Plan. Increasing our number of Life members helps the VFW achieve our mission and maintain membership strength, and the Installment Plan provides an affordable way to make a member for life.

For every Life and Life Installment member, either new or reinstated, the VFW member who recruits them will get an entry for each one into a drawing for a VFW leather bomber jacket to show our appreciation for those members who are helping to strengthen our ranks!

For the month of April, we are going to award 44 of these jackets to our top recruiters. We will draw winners based on their membership division as shown on the table:

Division 1: 5 winners  
Division 2: 5 winners  
Division 3: 5 winners  
Division 4: 4 winners  
Division 5: 4 winners  
Division 6: 4 winners  
Division 7: 4 winners  
Division 8: 4 winners  
Division 9: 3 winners  
Division 10: 3 winners  
Division 11: 3 winners

One of the Commander-in-Chief's top messages this year is that every VFW member is a recruiter, and we want to see everyone doing their part to help increase our membership! The Life Member Installment Plan is an easy and affordable way to make a lifetime commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to prove to the world that EVERY VETERAN COUNTS!

This contest will count the number of new and reinstated members recruited by a VFW member who have enrolled in the Life Member Installment Plan or paid in full for Life membership between April 1 and April 30. Life Installment Plan members processed through OMS must have responded to the automated email accepting the terms and conditions of the plan to be processed. Signed membership applications sent in via fax, mail, or email will be processed when received and will count if received before April 30.

## **2023 KANSAS CITY SPREE**

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100% membership by April 1, 2023, along with their guest will each be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, Missouri, from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 18-21, 2023) that may include but is not limited to touring, shopping and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

## **DEPARTMENT "100 PERCENT" INCENTIVE**

Any Department that attains 100% in membership by close of business on May 1, 2023, 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 Service (VTS) applied toward airfare, accommodations, and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

## **NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION**

Congratulations to the Department of Virginia for chartering two new Posts! Post 12217, Holland, Virginia, and Post 12218, Haymarket, Virginia, respectively. This is hard work and deserves the shout out. Well done! As we come out of winter and begin working toward this year's finish line, think about those Posts in your District that may need a boost in some way. Revitalization efforts come in all kinds of forms. Have a safe spring and, as always, if you have more than 15 members ready to charter a new Post, give me a call! We have resources to help get you where you need to be! If you have Posts needing revitalization, call us and we will help you! Call 816.968.2788 or email me at [coreyhunt@vfw.org](mailto:coreyhunt@vfw.org).

**New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award:** For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used toward 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](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**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on April 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., CST, Topic: Life Member Installment.

## **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 - [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 3.27.23):

**Timothy M. Borland – 446**  
VFW Post 9972, Dept. of AZ

**Steven L. Woodward – 427**  
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

**Joseph M. Young – 286**  
VFW Post 7108, Dept. of TX

**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:**

<i>Levels</i>		<i>Posts</i>	<i>Departments</i>	<i>National</i>
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**

Plenty of funding remains available to VFW Posts, Districts, and their Auxiliaries through the VFW Foundation’s grant programs. There are currently two opportunities available to Posts: (1) Community Support Grant; (2) Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant. One opportunity is available to Districts: District Corporate Partnership Grant.

Through these grants Posts and Districts can receive \$1,500 in reimbursement for various qualifying projects. The applications for these grants, which include guidelines, can be accessed by visiting [vfw.org/grants](http://vfw.org/grants) and [vfw.org/utch-grant](http://vfw.org/utch-grant). Questions may be directed to Grants Manager Jason Couch at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org).

Due to scheduling conflicts with the Burger King Foundation, the Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign will be conducted in May of this year. We continue to recruit BK franchisees across the US to help raise much needed funding for the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members, and their families that are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. A list of participating Burger King restaurants will be available beginning the week of April 17.

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Vargas, Assistant Director, VFW Foundation, at [bvargas@vfw.org](mailto:bvargas@vfw.org).

Contact: Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations, [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 18% 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 Special Edition VFW Birthday Cards** – Last month the VFW mailed the 2023 Special Edition Birthday Card Assortment and other gifts in recognition of your commitment to the VFW – and to struggling veterans of all generations. Enclosed in that package was a special Thank You card for a veteran or service member. Please sign and return it right away. We will deliver your signed Thank You card to one of America's service members or hospitalized veterans in time for Independence Day, this July 4th. It means so much to them to know their fellow veterans remember and care. This month you may also receive a reminder letter about that special package if you haven't had a chance to respond.

The VFW wants to ensure when our newest veterans – and veterans from all wars and conflicts – turn to us for assistance, we have the programs and assistance available for them. Please send a donation in honor of your fellow veterans who now face a long road to recovery from injuries sustained in battle. Your gift will mean that these programs stay available and strong right in your Department.

**Memorial Day Campaign** – Late this month you may be receiving a package that includes a set of patriotic coasters, four dimes, and a \$1.50 check. These items are simple reminders of how much your generosity means to the VFW and all the veterans we serve. When you return the nickels and check with the most generous gift you can manage, it will mean the VFW will continue to be there to help veterans, service members, and their families. Whether it is to receive financial grants when times are tough, assist veterans in obtaining the benefits they have earned, and ensure the rights of veterans of every generation are respected and protected. The coasters are a thank you for your continuing support. I also hope that you will join other veterans and military families in displaying the U.S. flag on all patriotic holidays, particularly this upcoming Memorial Day. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/Flag](https://heroes.vfw.org/Flag) to print a free flag poster to display.

**Sign Your Name, Change Your Future** – VFW members like you frequently tell us, "I wish I could do more." Learn ways you can impact future generations of veterans just by signing your name. Even better, it's with gifts that cost you nothing now! Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](https://vfw.org/PlannedGiving) for more information.

**Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Commander-in-Chief Timothy M. Borland 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 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 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 visit [vfw.org/VFWatWork](http://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. By visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools), you will find the latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. 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!

## VFW Communications

### Join the 2023 VFW Day of Service.

[VFW Day of Service](#) started out as a way to showcase the great community service efforts of local VFW members, but it quickly became a nationwide movement.

Now in its second year, Day of Service is sweeping the country. Every day, more VFW Posts and veterans are joining in. *Are you in?* [Signing up](#) is easy and we have plenty of great ideas and free resources to help you execute a meaningful community service event near you.

We want to give a shout-out to our friends in **California, Florida, Virginia** and **Texas** for having registered the most Day of Service events so far. Now, we need to hear from more of you in all 50 states, and especially Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Arizona and New York!

We know your call to serve is strong and you value gathering with fellow veterans to make a difference. Now is the time to change lives and make an impact. [Sign up for Day of Service today.](#)

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

As we plan for the **2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona**, we still have a few **Departments** that are **still delinquent**. **Please contact the VMS office at 816.968.1102** if you have any questions on how much your Department needs to donate to resolve the delinquency.

We have received the new design for the **VMS Lapel Pins** for the **2023-24 Program year!** VMS Chairs will be able to pre-order their pins and will be able to pick them up at convention again this year. Order forms with pictures of the lapel pins will be sent out before the end of March 2023. **Departments that are delinquent will not be able pre-order.**

### VMS All-American Requirement

To qualify for All-American, a **minimum donation of \$100** must be donated to **VMS** by **June 30, 2023**.

Encourage your Posts to donate directly to the VMS Programs by going to the VFW Dashboard. Click on the **“VMS Donation”** link at the upper right-hand corner of the screen and follow the online donation form. Once the donation is made, you will receive a confirmation email. If you have any questions, please contact us at 816.968.1102. **Thank you for your continued support!**

**\*Stay tuned for a new VMS and Programs donation portal for instant credit to the Dashboard.\***

### **VMS Donation Reports**

Donation reports are received on most Fridays and are uploaded to the Dashboard on the same day. The period of these reports is from the previous Friday to current Thursday.

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

The **2023 Fall Semester** is available online at [vfw.org/Scholarship](http://vfw.org/Scholarship) with a **deadline date of April 30, 2023**.

**VMS Program Chair Tools** – This is our one-stop-shop for all your Chair needs. Please click the link below to access the webpage. This webpage will be replacing our monthly VMS newsletter from this point forward. **Add the below to your shortcuts on your internet browser.**

[Access the Veterans & Military Support Program Chairperson Tools webpage now.](#)

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

**Thank you for what you do every day! See you in Phoenix, Arizona!!**

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

**ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD.** Please encourage Posts to read the 2022-23 Membership Program. Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance has been received from National Headquarters to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants and VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

**VFW HONOR’S AMERICA’S TEACHERS DURING 2022–23 PROGRAM YEAR.** Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2022-23:

Elementary School level – Kelly L. Garey, Van Buren Elementary School, Caldwell, Idaho, selected by VFW Post 3886 and Auxiliary, Caldwell, Idaho.

Middle School level – Susan Allgood, Stephens County Middle School, Toccoa, Georgia, selected by VFW Post 4346 and Auxiliary, Toccoa, Georgia.

High School level – Javier F. Martinez, Kaneland High School, Maple Park, Illinois, selected by VFW Post 5819 and Auxiliary, Lemont, Illinois.

National awards will be presented in July to each teacher during the VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Each of the winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Convention and \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses (winners will receive a 1099-MISC); \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters for presentation.

**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 Chairperson 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 Chairperson's Guide.

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

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

**HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG.** The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store [vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags](https://vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags).

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Wednesday, 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.

**“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](https://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

Whether you're on a solo adventure backpacking through Europe or in town for a weekend staycation, it's important to be prepared.

With travel accident insurance, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, you can help secure your family's financial security in the event of your injury or death from a travel-related accident. This coverage provides \$150,000 in accidental death (death while traveling in a private motor vehicle), an additional \$150,000 for death while traveling in a common carrier vehicle and a \$500 cash benefit for every day you stay in the hospital because of a covered accident. All benefit amounts reduce to 50% of the original benefit amount at age 75 regardless of age at enrollment.

As a VFW Member, you're eligible to receive this coverage, and cannot be turned down, regardless of your health, occupation, past driving records or the number of miles you travel annually.

Protect your travels [today](#).

## "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**NATIONAL "BUDDY"<sup>®</sup> POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** 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 22, until noon, Monday, July 24, 2023. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Any displays left after this time, will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the 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 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:** 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](http://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 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.

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto: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 do not 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.

## Quartermaster General

The Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that for the 2023-24 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out \$3.50 for each Plan A, B and C Life Member, \$3.18 for each Plan D Life Member and \$7.12 for each Plan E Life Member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in Sept. 2023 for all Life Members recorded as of Aug. 31, 2023. In addition, \$7.12 will be paid in Jan. 2024 for each Life Member processed from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact Marc Garduno, Quartermaster General, [MGarduno@vfw.org](mailto:MGarduno@vfw.org).

## National Veterans Service

### **NEW DIRECTOR, NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has selected its new National Service Officer.

Mike Figlioli, deputy director of VFW National Veterans Service (NVS), has been promoted to director of the VFW's premiere program for veterans. The 104-year-old NVS offers free service claims assistance to veterans, service members and their families. In fiscal year 2022 alone, the NVS recovered more than \$11.2 billion for veterans, spouses and survivors.

As NVS director, Figlioli is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program, which ensures veterans, service members and their families have access to their earned benefits through the Departments of Veterans

Affairs, Defense and Labor. The scope of his role also includes overseeing the VFW's network of more than 1,950 VFW Accredited Service Officers located around the world and on almost two dozen military installations, to ensure they have the necessary training and resources to provide the best possible service to their veteran clients.

## **LAST CALL FOR VFW SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2022-23 NOMINATIONS**

The deadline for submitting nominations for the John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award for 2022-23 is **April 30, 2023**.

Each Department Commander may nominate one eligible individual for this award. The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two night's hotel accommodation to attend the VFW National Convention where the award will be presented. In addition, the award recipient will receive \$599 in recognition of their accomplishments and to offset travel expenses.

We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions service representatives make in your community.

Nominations can be submitted to NVS via email to [taldana@vfw.org](mailto:taldana@vfw.org) by no later than April 30.

## **ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND, APRIL 16-19, 2023**

The upcoming VFW National Veterans Service Proficiency Training Conference (PTC) for accredited representatives is being held April 16-19, 2023, live and in-person at the Doubletree Annapolis, Maryland, with a virtual workgroup option to our live conference.

While registration has already ended, this is a reminder that your Department Service Office may be closed while your accredited representatives attend this training which is essential to maintaining expert knowledge of the veterans' benefits system.

Questions regarding this or any VFW National Veterans Service sponsored training, should be addressed to Mike Figlioli, Director, VFW National Veterans Service, at [mfiglioli@vfw.org](mailto:mfiglioli@vfw.org).

# National Legislative Service/Action Corps

## **VA Budget Released**

The president's budget request for fiscal year 2024 has been released and includes many increases for VA. Some notable inclusions are additional resources for health care, benefits, and national cemeteries. "The VFW is encouraged by the Administration's recently released budget as it seeks to provide the necessary resources for VA to provide earned essential care and benefits to millions of veterans across the country," said VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci. "This includes commitments our nation has made to toxic-exposed veterans through the historic PACT Act. The VFW still has concerns about the under prioritization of certain elements within the budget such as infrastructure and the funding mechanism for toxic exposure care. But we look forward to working with our partners in Congress and the Administration to make sure these outliers are rectified to ensure the best possible outcomes for veterans." [Read the release.](#)

## Administrative Operations

**Post Election Reports must be submitted no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters.**

Installing officers are directed to see to it that the Post Election Report forms have been completed and submitted to National Headquarters. If a Post Election Report form has not been forwarded to National Headquarters at the time of installation, the installing officer shall complete and forward such report at the time of the installation of Post Officers no later than June 1. **We encourage all Post Quartermasters to use the online Election Report process featured in the Online Membership System (OMS)**, which is located behind the member's "LOGIN" at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org). Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

## VFW Store



**ORDER YOUR VFW UNIFORM CAP TODAY!** Officer changes will be taking place soon. The peak season for ordering caps is April to August, when the VFW Store processes thousands of cap orders. During this period, it can take up to 10 weeks to receive your cap. To order today, go to [vfwstore.org/category/vfw/uniformcapandnametags](http://vfwstore.org/category/vfw/uniformcapandnametags) or call 833.VFW.VETS (833.839.8387).

OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY with grave marker items:  
[vfwstore.org/category/memorial/graveitems?page=1&size=50](http://vfwstore.org/category/memorial/graveitems?page=1&size=50)

## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

CHEVALIER, PAUL J., National Council Member, 2001-2003, Commander, Department of New Hampshire, 1998-1999 and a Life Member of Emerson Hovey Post 168, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, March 8, 2023.