

## Membership

Each year we challenge you to reach 100% membership compared to the previous year. This is the best way to forecast your membership strength throughout each year as the numbers speak for themselves and are a brutally honest reflection of your recruiting efforts. Recruiting members is obviously critical to our mission of serving veterans. This year we are struggling to get even one Department to 100%. Here are the hard numbers: we are currently **89.95%** of where we were last year at this time or **113,000** members behind. This means we need an average of 22,600 renewed, new and reinstated members per month to achieve 100% by June 30, 2020.

How do we accomplish this goal? It is the same as asking, “How do you eat an elephant?” The answer is simply one bite at a time. We ask each Department, District and Post to look at what your need is to make 100% by June 30 and simply break it down in equal parts over these last five months. If your Department, District or Post need any assistance from the Membership Department, they can reach us at 888.JOIN.VFW (888.564.6839) or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

### COMMANDER’S CHALLENGE

For this month’s Commander’s challenge, we are focusing on total growth in the organization. We will hold a drawing from the top 10 Posts in each division, based on the membership increase in the month of February, to receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account. In addition to the \$1,000, we will randomly draw 10 of the top 20 Posts in each division to receive a special edition KA-BAR combat knife from Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz!

### DEPARTMENT “FIRST TO FINISH” INCENTIVE

For the Department that is first to attain 100% in membership, the Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) will each receive:

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

### KANSAS CITY SPREE

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100 percent membership by April 1, 2020, along with their spouse or guest, will be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, MO, from the airport nearest the awardee’s home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 16-17, 2020) that may include but is not limited to – touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

**POST DEVELOPMENT**

Now is the time to put into action the plans you have made for the 2019-2020 program year! Please ensure your Departments are in contact with the National Membership Team to identify an area in need of Post development or a revitalization effort. There are many resources available to you; all you need to do is call! We are looking to start a Post or revitalize an existing Post in every Department. Now is the time to identify areas to improve on!

- Does your Post have a formal recruiting program?
- Is your Post’s mentorship program running smoothly?

Let the Membership Department know now what you’re working on so we can start tracking that information and provide assistance as needed. For any questions or further information, contact Corey Hunt in the Membership Department via email at [coreyhunt@vfw.org](mailto:coreyhunt@vfw.org) or 1.888.564.6839.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**  
Top Three Recruiters (as of 1/29/2020):

**Hugh M. Warner – 365**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**Mark A. Short – 253**  
VFW Post 9400, Dept. of AZ

**Carlo S. Davis – 196**  
VFW Post 9191, Dept. of TX

**DEPARTMENTS WITH NEW POSTS:**

VFW Post No. 12192 in Lucedale, MS  
VFW Post No. 12194 in Durant, IA  
VFW Post No. 12195 in Waynesboro, MS

**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, 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><i>Levels</i></b>		<b><i>Posts</i></b>	<b><i>Departments</i></b>	<b><i>National</i></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?***

## **BURGER KING® VFW NOVEMBER UNMET NEEDS CAMPAIGN**

The November BURGER KING® [VFW's Unmet Needs](#) campaign has raised \$306,780 with more donations expected. Please make a point to visit your local BK, buy a meal, and tell the restaurant manager “Thanks!” for supporting our nation’s military families and veterans.

## **DELL SUPPORTS VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

Dell has confirmed that it will provide laptops to Voice of Democracy finalists with Dell representatives present at the Parade of Winners ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Monday, March 2.

## **THE HOME DEPOT GRANT RE-OPENS IN FEBRUARY**

The Home Depot Community Impact Grant has closed though it will re-open in Feb. 2020. At that time, the VFW Foundation will once again produce an easy-to-understand how-to-apply guide that will walk Post members through the Internet application process. If you have any questions, please email Jason Couch, Grants & External Relations Coordinator, at [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org).

## **VFW FOUNDATION GRANT UPDATES**

The VFW Foundation Grant has now closed for applications. The grant will re-open on Sept. 1, 2020. With that said, the VFW Foundation Community Support Grant that is geared toward VFW Posts/Auxiliaries remains open. To apply click [here](#).

**2020 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign** – I hope you received the 2020 VFW NVS Annual Campaign mailing that was sent in early January. It contained a 2020 Petition to Congress and an American Hero Memorial Day card for you to sign and return. We will continue collecting the petitions and deliver them to Congress to let them know that we will not sit by and allow Congress to make sweeping fiscal changes that could threaten veterans’ benefits. The cards will be distributed to hospitalized veterans and service members by Memorial Day. Some members received the 2020 member survey to fill out and return, and we are continuing to collect and tally the responses.

In mid-January, we sent out a reminder letter with a Special Veterans’ Petition addressed to the President and Congressional leaders. The VFW is doing everything it can to remind our President and Congressional leaders to uphold the promises made to those who have fought for this nation. Please sign and return the petitions so we can forward them to Washington, D.C. When you do, please consider sending a gift to help the VFW National Veterans Service.

Your support is still urgently needed for the 2020 VFW NVS Annual Campaign. Your donation right now ensures the VFW's national force of highly trained, professional service officers is at the ready to help America's veterans navigate the complicated VA system.

VFW Service Officers help veterans and their survivors cut through the red tape to receive VA compensation and pension benefits they have earned. In fiscal year 2019, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that the veterans represented by the VFW received more than \$9 billion in earned disability compensation and pension benefits. This includes more than \$1.6 billion in new benefits, submitted on behalf of more than 108,000 veterans. VFW Service Officers are there for all veterans to help them apply for and receive their hard earned VA benefits. This service is available to all veterans FREE OF CHARGE — and made possible through your donations. Please, watch your mail for this important campaign.

**VFW Birthday Card Assortment is Coming Your Way!** – As a special thank you for all of your support of fellow veterans and the programs the VFW offers to veterans of all generations – we are sending a VFW Birthday Card Assortment to arrive late in February! We hope you enjoy your gift and continue to support the many life-changing programs the VFW offers. You will also receive a Thank You card for a veteran or service member in recognition of their sacrifices and Independence Day. Please sign and return the signed card to be delivered to a hospitalized veteran or service member in time for Independence Day. Please also send a generous donation to help support your VFW Department Programs. Without your support, many veterans would have a difficult time getting the assistance they need.

**Join the Prestigious VFW Heroes Circle!** – You can join an elite group of our most dedicated members and supporters in the VFW Heroes Circle! Comprised of those who wish to further our mission with a gift in their wills or other estate plans, the VFW Heroes Circle was created to honor our most loyal supporters who have made this extraordinary commitment to America’s veterans, service members and their families. To learn how easy it is to make an impact on future generations of veterans, please contact the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org). More information is available online at [vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://vfw.org/plannedgiving).

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive? The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible, and a Year End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) or email us at [partners@vfw.org](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. You need only go to [heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools](http://heroes.vfw.org/vfwtools). The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website. Recent

mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## VFW Communications

Have you downloaded the VFW Events app in the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#)? Be on the lookout for the 2020 Legislative Conference event which will be live on Feb. 3.

Stay up to date with all of the action throughout the legislative conference by following [#VFWDC2020](#) on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Not able to join us in D.C.? Watch the livestream of the Parade of Winners on Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. EST and the livestream of the Chief's testimony on March 4, all at [vfw.org/VFWDC2020](http://vfw.org/VFWDC2020).

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

### Legislative Conference ~ Washington, D.C.

There will NOT be a check presentation this year at the Legislative Conference. Please send your Veterans & Military Support donation directly to the office:

Veterans & Military Support  
406 W. 34th Street, Suite 902  
Kansas City, MO 64111

ATTN: VMS Chairmen - If you picked up Veterans & Military Support 2019-20 lapel pins at the National Convention, now would be a good time to mail in your donation which will represent your Department's fundraiser for VMS to qualify for All-American.

### REMINDER:

**ALL-AMERICAN POST REQUIREMENT:** Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to National Veterans & Military Support programs. **Minimum \$100.00.**

## 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 and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP238](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP238).

### SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.

Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post, District and Department level are completed. After Department judging, each Department forwards the entries of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Each Department's selections will receive a National Commendation citation.



The Smart/Maher VFW 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 school; and, an all-expenses paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention in July 2020 in Reno, NV. In addition, the top 10 national high school teachers will be invited to attend one of the available Summer Graduate seminars at the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, PA.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Store, product #4320, [vfwstore.org/products/23980](http://vfwstore.org/products/23980). Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

**PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER.** The suggested deadline for Departments to have reviewed and approved their District and Post entries in the All-American Dashboard was 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 Nick Lopez at [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or 816.968.1155.

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.** Annually, the VFW awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. An applicant has to have reached his or her 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection. Awards are as follows: \$5,000 – 1st place scholarship, \$3,000 – 2nd place scholarship and \$1,000 – 3rd place scholarship. The deadline for entry to a VFW Post is Mar. 1. A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at [vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY\\_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf](http://vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf). For Scouting certificates and awards go to [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scout%20of%20the%20year](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scout%20of%20the%20year).

**50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM.** The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

**For the VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.**

**Applications are available at [VietnamWar50th.com](http://VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program.** The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam).

**VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM.** This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

### **WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL NEWS:**

**Is Your Post Named for a Veteran of the Great War (World War I)?** If so, we want to hear from you! The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission is collecting information on VFW Posts named after WWI veterans. If your Post is honored by the memory of a local doughboy, marine, sailor, or nurse who served and sacrificed their lives, we want to know more. Please send your information and material on the history of your Post to: David Hamon, Veterans and Military Affairs Director, U.S. World War I Centennial Commission, at [david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) or you may call him at 540.379.8584. The Commission is collecting historical and archive information on the Great War to observe and commemorate those 4.7 million who served in that conflict. America never forgets its veterans. Help them build a national memorial in Washington, D.C. To learn more, go to: [ww1cc.org/memorial](http://ww1cc.org/memorial).

**Help Build America's World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C.** The U.S. World War I Centennial Commission recently announced the creation of the AEF (Allied Expeditionary Forces) Memorial Corps. The program is a special designation for Posts, patriotic organizations, local chapters of civic organizations, among others, to be recognized as an official "AEF Memorial Corps Post" for making a donation to build the national WWI memorial in Washington, D.C. Your Post will be certified with a special Centennial Certificate commemorating your contribution in "going over the top" to get the memorial built. For more information, please write Mr. David Hamon: [david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org](mailto:david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org) or call him at 540.379.8584. To view the progress of the memorial, go to: [ww1cc.org/memorial](http://ww1cc.org/memorial). Your VFW Post will forever be enshrined in history as having pushed to get the memorial built. America never forgets her veterans!

**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 Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 25, 2020 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 18, 2020 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. 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

Your eyesight is one of your most important senses. Did you know:

- 80% of all learning comes through the eyes.
- Eyes are the fastest contracting muscle in your body. It contracts in less than 1/100th of a second.
- The eye is the 2nd most complex organ, following closely behind the brain!
- Your eyes focus on 50 different objects every second.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open!

Your eyes work hard for you, so do what you can to keep them healthy! Eyemart Express is a leading national optical retailer that takes pride in providing busy consumers with the right glasses at the right price right now, offering a unique mix of value, style and timely service.

VFW members receive a special 20% discount, so start shopping for eyewear online at [EyemartExpress.com](http://EyemartExpress.com).

## "Buddy"® Poppy

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

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use "ASAP." 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 chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.



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

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](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 only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don't pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. 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.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM."** The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: [ww1cc.org/poppy](http://ww1cc.org/poppy)

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4l49mZso](https://youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso).

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

## National Veterans Service

### Accredited Representative of the Year Award

We are now accepting nominations for the VFW Accredited Representative of the Year Award. This award recognizes the contributions our professionally trained, accredited advocates make to the lives of veterans and their families every day. We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions your program makes in your community every day.

Service Officers from Departments of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Mexico and Texas have earned this award since its inception four years ago. These Service Officers stood out from our nationwide cadre for not only meeting the challenge daily, but exceeding it through exemplary commitment, technical knowledge, and customer service.

For more information on this award, please contact [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org).

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### **Our March Legislative Conference is Fast Approaching**

The VFW's March Legislative Conference provides an opportunity for VFW leaders from each state to personally meet with their respective lawmakers, advocate for VFW legislative priorities, and watch as the VFW Commander-in-Chief testifies on Capitol Hill before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of our members.

We encourage members to prepare for their meetings with their senators and representatives by familiarizing themselves with the [VFW 2020 Priority Goals](#). The priority goals provide our organization's overview of the areas of focus regarding military benefits and quality of life programs. It is imperative that Congress provide sufficient funding for the DOD and VA programs needed by service members, veterans, and families, and that VA is held accountable for the timeliness and quality of services it delivers to our veterans. [Learn more](#) about the VFW's stance on specific issues.

### **2020 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship**

The VFW and Student Veterans of America (SVA) have chosen the 2020 Legislative Fellowship class. The fellows will now join more than 500 VFW members on Capitol Hill next month to advocate on behalf of all veterans, service members, and their families. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is a semester-long academic experience that involves researching, coordinating, reporting, and advocating on behalf of one of four veterans' policy areas: student veteran success on campus and beyond, improving veterans' health care and benefits, transitioning from military to civilian life, and challenges for service members and military families. The 10 fellows selected for the 2020 class are:

- Tom Baker, Navy veteran, Arizona State University
- Katherine Cassell, Army retiree, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Carl Chen, Air Force active-duty service member, Trident University International
- Clifton Clevenger, Army veteran, Wayland Baptist University
- Ashley Dent, Air Force veteran, New York Institute of Technology
- Sasha Georgiades, Navy veteran, Hawaii Pacific University
- Blake Hite, Navy veteran, Georgetown University
- Matthew Jenkins, Marine Corps veteran, University of South Florida
- Randy Purham, Army active-duty service member, American Public University
- Jack Ratliff, Army veteran, University of South Florida

## VFW Store



**It's time to start thinking about Department Conventions!** To ensure that your apparel and gifts arrive in time, contact custom consultant Kim Winston now. She can help you with logo design (if you don't already have one) and has thousands of items to choose from. To receive a free, no-obligation consultation, call her at 816.968.1181 or email her at [kwinston@vfw.org](mailto:kwinston@vfw.org).

**Add some pizzazz to your VFW Post with an LED sign** that lets you promote upcoming events as well as the VFW's mission in your community. Check out the VFW Store's partners and licensed vendors page at [vfwstore.org/category/more/partnersandlicensedvendors](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/partnersandlicensedvendors) and scroll down to Stewart Signs. Attract new members to your VFW Post by getting them excited with what is happening in your community.



**Presidents' Day is coming up.** When you're visiting classrooms for this patriotic holiday, take along the U.S. Presidents ruler from the VFW Store. It's a great way to connect with your community! Click [vfwstore.org/products/22894](http://vfwstore.org/products/22894).

## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

MORRISON, RICHARD E. "RICK," National Council of Administration member, 2007-2009, All American Commander, Department of Nebraska, 2005-2006 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Herman Godbersen Post No. 8334, Millard, Nebraska, December 30, 2019.

CORRIVEAU, MICHAEL K., Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 2007-2008 and a Life member of Ellenton Post 9226, Ellenton, Florida, January 18, 2020.

PAUL, THOMAS O., Commander, Department of Massachusetts, 2009-2010 and a Gold Legacy Life member of William F. Davitt/George G. Clarke Post 625, Chicopee, Massachusetts, January 23, 2020.

VAN KIRK, ROBERT M., Commander, Department of Massachusetts, 2004-2005 and a Life member of Sgt. Harold O. Young Post 2394, Melrose, Massachusetts, January 27, 2020.