ANNUAL REPORT
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2014-2015
FROM THE DESK OF JOHN A. BIEDRZYCKI, JR.  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

In my dual capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and Chairman of the Board of the VFW Foundation, I am almost constantly traveling. Not only have I visited many U.S. military bases but I have personally talked with thousands of our military service personnel often in combat zones around the world.

What always impresses me in my conversations with these brave men and women in all branches of the service, is their unflinching patriotic dedication to duty. Without exception they are totally committed to ensuring that you and I are safe. Perhaps, that’s why our military personnel frequently endure incredible personal pain, staggering physical wounds and yes even the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for us all.

Since 1899, the VFW has always ensured that America’s military service personnel, veterans and their families will never be forgotten in their time of great physical, emotional or financial need.

Isn’t that the least we can do?

Your generosity has enabled the VFW Foundation, the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW, the means to provide numerous beneficial programs and services that address the necessities of those who are now, or who have previously defended our wonderful nation. Whether it’s assisting military families with financial difficulties, providing aid for expenses such as rent and mortgage payments, utilities, vehicle repair, medical and food/basic aid; offering morale boosting “welcome home” or “sendoff” events for military units; counseling veterans on VA entitlement benefits; and so much more!

I am proud to report that the VFW Foundation has been a great steward of your donation dollars with the highest standards of competent transparency. I ask that you take a few moments to review the following Annual Report & Summary of Accomplishments, 2014-2015, which will give you a comprehensive overview of our operations and financial information.

Finally, I offer my personal gratitude for your past support and I kindly ask that if possible you remember us in the coming year so that we can continue to give forward with the greatest urgency and compassion to America’s troops, veterans and military families!

Sincerely,

John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.  
Chairman of the Board
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2013 - 2014)

John W. Stroud
Chairman of the Board
Term of Office – 07/23/14 – 07/22/15
Commander-in-Chief, VFW

Robert B. Green
Secretary-Treasurer
Term of Office – 04/30/12 – Present
Quartermaster General, VFW

Anthony J. Principi
Board Member
Term of Office – 12/15/05 – 08/23/15
Re-elected to 3 three-year term 08/23/12
Former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Michael DeRosa
Board Member
Term of Office – 03/05/11 – 03/05/17
Re-elected to 2nd three-year term 08/21/14
Owner, Burger King Franchise

John E. Hamilton
President
Term of Office – 07/24/13 – Present
Adjutant General, VFW

Janet A. Owens
Board Member
Term of Office – 09/01/10 – Present

Gordon B. Logan
Board Member
Term of Office – 10/06/11 – 8/21/17 Re-elected to 2nd three-year term 8/21/14
CEO/Founder, Sport Clips, Inc.

Joshua S. Halpern
Board Member
Term of Office – 03/02/14 – 03/02/17
Vice President, Nat’l Retail Sales, On-Premise &
Military, Anheuser-Busch Inbev

STAFF

Richard G. Freiburghouse
Manager

Benjamin L. Vargas
Assistant Manager, Special Projects

Rebecca L. Curtis
Senior Program Coordinator

Jason T. Couch
Grants Coordinator
MISSION (OUR SOLEMN PROMISE)

To support programs and services that secure manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and the communities in which they live.

VISION

To memorialize the past so as to never let America forget the personal sacrifices of those who have defended its freedoms; yet always looking forward to honor and provide for those among us who through their military service are dedicated to maintaining our security and democratic way of life.

ENSURING THAT U.S. TROOPS, THEIR FAMILIES AND VETERANS ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN!

The VFW Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) charity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, America’s oldest and largest organization of combat veterans.

The VFW Foundation manages a wide variety of programs and services (most with a national geographic emphasis) at no cost and with no VFW membership required of those we serve. It is important to note that we receive no government funding. Thus, we depend on donations from corporations, foundations and individuals who believe as we do that our troops need to know that America truly cares.

The VFW Foundation continues to be the premier veterans service nonprofit organization. We are especially proud of the fact that our administrative costs are extremely low and our rating with charity watchdog groups such as Charity Navigator, GuideStar and the Better Business Bureau has consistently garnered highly positive ratings.

Our organization constantly adapts to the urgent-needs of U.S. troops, military families and veterans. Last fiscal year, we distributed over $1.9 million to programs and services that directly met the needs of these deserving individuals.
The VFW and the VFW Foundation have cultivated ongoing relationships with companies such as Sport Clips, USAA, Burger King Franchise owners, and other patriotic corporations, many of which have undertaken fundraising and cause-marketing efforts on the behalf of the VFW.

Other sufficient revenue comes from grants (corporate and foundation), federated giving programs such as the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), matching corporate gifts, donor-advised funds, and of course through the generosity of individual donors.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 promises to be a further meaningful evolution in the history of our organization.

**OUR SUPPORT TO VFW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:**

- Assist families with rent, mortgage, utilities, vehicle repair, medical expenses, food and other basic needs through the VFW Unmet Needs program. Since 2004, the VFW Foundation has assisted 3,628 families and awarded more than $5 million in financial assistance.

- Allow troops to call home on a regular basis including all holidays such as Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, etc. Over 7.5 million connections have been made since 2006.

- Boost morale through “welcome home” or “sendoff” events for military units including VIP treatment at sporting/entertainment venues.

- Provide direct, pro bono assistance by the VFW’s National Veterans Service (NVS) officers to help veterans in their often difficult entitlement claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), actively pursuing compensation for servicerelated injuries to veterans including PTSD and traumatic brain injury. Additionally, the VFW has helped 209,000 veterans recover an amazing $5.9 billion in the last two years. The VFW pledges to meet with recently discharged troops from Afghanistan as they return home via group dispersals.

**THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

- Partnered with various Burger King Franchisee associations in numerous states to raise more than $550,000 for the VFW’s Unmet Needs program.
• Received $527,000 in contributions from Sport Clips Haircuts for the “Help A Hero” scholarship program to provide service members and veterans financial assistance needed to complete education goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.

• Received over $237,000 in contributions from the Combined Federal Campaign and state/local campaigns.

• Received more than $317,000 from other foundations.

• Assisted VFW Departments and Posts with fundraising that resulted in nearly $84,000 for their local projects.

• Received more than $47,000 in corporate matching gifts.

• Raised significant gifts to assist military families in financial emergencies through the VFW Unmet Needs program. It has now granted more than $5 million since 2004 to 3,628 families.

• Reached out to Kansas City-area foundations and corporations for financial support to address the needs of local homeless and financially disadvantaged veterans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support and revenue</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash contributions and gifts</td>
<td>$1,451,989</td>
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<td>$2,895,441</td>
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<td>58,621</td>
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<td>58,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions of services and goods for distribution</td>
<td>723,471</td>
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<td>723,471</td>
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<td>Interest, dividends, net realized gains and (losses)</td>
<td>6,700</td>
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<td>6,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other revenue</td>
<td>1,516,175</td>
<td>(1,516,175)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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### Statements of Activities & Changes in Net Assets

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>2,615,876</td>
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<td>2,615,876</td>
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<td>Change in net assets</td>
<td>1,772,575</td>
<td>(72,723)</td>
<td>1,699,852</td>
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<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>4,436,060</td>
<td>3,689,824</td>
<td>8,125,884</td>
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<td>year</td>
<td>6,208,635</td>
<td>3,617,101</td>
<td>9,825,736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total support and revenue</td>
<td>3,756,956</td>
<td>(72,723)</td>
<td>3,684,233</td>
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</tbody>
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### Expenses

- **Program Services**
  - Veterans’ service activities: 1,957,534
  - Community service and public awareness: 105,556

- **Support Services**
  - Management and general expenses: 340,939
  - Fundraising activities: 211,847

### Changes in net assets before unrealized net investment gains

|                                | Amount       | Amount       | Amount       |
|                                |              |              |              |
| net investment gains           |              |              |              |
| Unrealized net investment gains|              |              |              |

### Statements of Financial Position

#### Assets

- **Cash and Cash Equivalents**
- **Investments, at fair value**
- **Receivables**
  - Pledges receivable
  - Accounts receivable
  - Accrued interest receivable
  - Total receivables

- **Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment**
- **Prepaid Expenses**
- **Total assets**
## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### LIABILITIES

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
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<td>Payable to affiliate</td>
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<td>Charitable gift annuities</td>
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<td>Total liabilities</td>
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### CONTIGENCIES

### NET ASSETS

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<td>Total net assets</td>
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<td>Total net liabilities and net assets</td>
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9/1/13 - 8/31/14

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