



**ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
2015-2016**



*"The mission of the VFW Foundation is 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 where they live."*

## **FROM THE DESK OF BRIAN J. DUFFY CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Since my election in July 2016 to become Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW), I have logged thousands of miles visiting U.S. military bases and VFW Posts, and personally talked with thousands of veterans and military service personnel. VFW and Auxiliary members have every right to be proud of our 118 year legacy of service to veterans, service members and their families. But we have been too modest in communicating this to others, and especially to younger combat veterans who are not yet members of the VFW.

These younger generations clearly identify with belonging to something big, doing something "cool." As the first Desert Storm veteran elected to National Commander of the VFW, I am here to shout from the rooftop that this great organization we call the VFW has a century of experience doing cool things like:

- Providing more than \$6.1 million in grants to help 4,326 military and veteran families with financial emergencies through the VFW *Unmet Needs* program, funded in large part by Burger King franchise owners.
- Funding \$3.3 million in educational awards to middle and high school students through the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay competitions; and another \$3 million to more than 700 veterans and service members through the Sport Clips Haircuts *Help a Hero Scholarship* program.
- Helping veterans navigate the complex process of securing earned benefits. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs statistics show that for 2016, the VFW helped 494,521 veterans recoup over \$7 billion in benefits and disability compensation.

My responsibility as Commander-in-Chief includes chairing the VFW Foundation Board of Directors. As the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW, the Foundation's charge is to secure resources to support VFW programs and services such as those outlined above. I am proud to report that the VFW Foundation has been a great steward of your philanthropic investments, with the highest standards of competence and transparency. Please take a few moments to review the following pages, 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 respectfully invite you to remember us in the coming year as we respond with urgency and compassion to the needs of America's troops, veterans and military families.

Respectfully yours,

Brian Duffy  
Chairman of the Board

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2015 - 2016)

### **Brian Duffy**

Chairman of the Board

Term of Office – 07/27/16 – 07/27/17

*Commander-in-Chief, VFW*

### **Debra Anderson**

Secretary-Treasurer

Term of Office – 07/27/16 – Present

*Quartermaster General, VFW*

### **Anthony Principi**

Board Member

Term of Office – 12/15/05 – 08/20/18

Re-elected to 4<sup>th</sup> three-year term 08/20/15

*Former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

### **Michael DeRosa**

Board Member

Term of Office – 03/05/11 – 03/05/17

Re-elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term 08/21/14

*Owner, Burger King Franchise*

### **Robert Wallace**

President

Term of Office – 07/27/16 – Present

*Adjutant General, VFW*

### **Jan Owens**

Board Member

Term of Office – 09/01/10 – Present

### **Gordon Logan**

Board Member

Term of Office – 10/06/11 – 8/21/17

Re-elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term 8/21/14

*CEO/Founder, Sport Clips Haircuts*

## STAFF

### **Richard Potter**

Foundation Administrator

### **Rebecca Curtis**

Senior Program Coordinator

### **Richard Freiburghouse**

Manager

### **Jason Couch**

Grants Coordinator

### **Benjamin Vargas**

Assistant Manager, Special Projects

### **Renee Spears**

Gift Processing Coordinator

## **MISSION**

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 America never forgets 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.

# 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 largest and oldest combat veterans service organization.

The VFW Foundation supports and manages a wide variety of programs and services (most with a national geographic emphasis). These are provided to those we serve at **no cost**; and **VFW membership is not required**.

Our organization constantly adapts to the urgent needs of U.S. troops, military families and veterans. Last fiscal year, we distributed over \$2.4 million to VFW programs and services that directly support the needs of these deserving individuals.

Much of the funding for VFW programs and services is provided through ongoing partnerships with corporations such as USAA, Humana, Sport Clips, Burger King Franchisees, and other patriotic companies, many of which have undertaken fundraising and cause-marketing efforts on the behalf of the VFW.

Additional revenue comes from corporate and foundation grants, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and other federated giving programs, corporate matching gifts, donor-advised funds, estate gifts, and of course through the generosity of individual donors. It is important to note that we receive no government funding. Thus, we are exceedingly grateful for the generous support from corporations, foundations and individuals who share our belief that America's troops deserve to know that America *truly* cares.

The VFW Foundation takes great pride in maintaining low administrative costs and highly favorable ratings with charity watchdog groups such as Charity Navigator, GuideStar and the Better Business Bureau. Fiscal Year 2016-17 promises to be a further meaningful evolution in the history of our organization.

## SUPPORTING VFW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- In collaboration with participating Burger King franchisees, assisted military families and veterans with rent, mortgage payments, utilities, vehicle repair, medical expenses, food and other basic needs through the VFW *Unmet Needs* program. Since 2004, the VFW Foundation has assisted 4,050 families and awarded more than \$6.1 million in financial assistance.
- Awarded more than \$3 million in scholarships to 714 veterans and service members through the “Sport Clips Haircuts Help A Hero Scholarship” program since January 2014.
- Awarded \$3.3 million in educational awards to more than 168,000 middle and high school students through the VFW’s *Patriot’s Pen* and *Voice of Democracy* patriotic essay contest.
- Allowed troops to contact home during VFW sponsored *Free Call Days*. Over 7.6 million connections have been made since 2006 via telephone or internet.
- Provided direct, pro bono assistance by the VFW’s accredited Veterans Service Officers to help veterans navigate the complex process of securing earned benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). In 2016 alone, the VFW helped 494,521 veterans recoup over \$7 billion in benefits and disability compensation.

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW FY 2015-2016

- Collaborated with Burger King Franchisees across the country to raise more than \$636,000 for the VFW's *Unmet Needs* program. Since the program was established in 2004, the VFW has granted more than \$6.1 million to assist 4,050 military families with urgent financial needs.
- Received \$1,000,000 in contributions and pledges from Sport Clips Haircuts for their "*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 \$107,000 in contributions from the Combined Federal Campaign and state/local campaigns.
- Received more than \$248,000 from other foundations.
- Assisted VFW Departments and Posts with fundraising that resulted in nearly \$100,000 for their local projects.
- Awarded 115 grants totaling \$100,000 to 134 VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to support youth service organizations, food pantries, school programs, homeless veterans and other local community projects.
- Processed nearly \$70,000 in corporate matching gifts.

# STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	9/1/2015 – 8/31/2016		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and revenue			
Cash contributions and gifts	\$ 645,826	\$ 1,816,419	\$ 2,462,245
Contributions of services and goods for distribution			
Interest, dividends, net realized gains and (losses)	485,058		485,058
Other revenue			
Net assets released from restrictions	2,219,799	(2,219,799)	
Total support and revenue	3,350,683	(403,380)	2,947,303
Expenses			
Program Services			
Veterans' service activities	2,417,204		2,417,204
Community service and public awareness	194,877		194,877
Support Services			
Management and general expenses	355,680		355,680
Fundraising activities	216,019		216,019
Total expenses	3,183,780		3,183,780
Changes in net assets before unrealized net investment gains	166,903	(403,380)	(236,477)
Unrealized net investment gains	196,052		196,052
Change in net assets	362,955	\$ (403,380)	(40,425)
Net assets, beginning of year	6,498,978	4,210,606	10,709,584
Net assets, end of year	\$ 6,861,933	\$ 3,807,226	\$ 10,669,159

# STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>9/1/15 - 8/31/16</b>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$ 649,557
INVESTMENTS, at fair value	10,647,845
RECEIVABLES	
Pledges receivable	
Accounts receivable	
Accrued interest receivable	
Total receivables	<u>17,283</u>
FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT, net of accumulated depreciation of \$52,442 and \$51,428 in 2016 and 2015, respectively	-
PREPAID EXPENSES	<u>28,556</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 11,343,241</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 558,976
Payable to affiliate	112,761
Charitable gift annuities	<u>2,345</u>
Total liabilities	674,082
CONTINGENCIES	
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	6,861,933
Temporarily restricted	<u>3,807,226</u>
Total net assets	<u>10,669,159</u>
Total net liabilities and net assets	<u><u>\$ 11,343,241</u></u>



406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 920  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
Office: 816-968-1128  
Fax: 816-968-2789  
foundation@vfw.org  
www.vfwfoundation.org