

Membership

Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of October 2021!

For this month's Commander's Challenge, the top Post in each division with the highest increase in total membership percentage between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31 will receive \$1,000 deposited into the Post account. **Sign up new members, reinstate lapsed members, and collect dues from your members who are coming up for renewal, and your Post could be one of those eligible for this incentive!**

This contest will compare the Post's membership percentage on Oct. 1 to the membership percentage on Oct. 31. Members processed through the Online Membership System before close of business will be processed that day; membership applications sent in via fax or mail will be processed when received.

ELIGIBILITY UPDATE

At the 2021 National Convention, Section 101 (Eligibility) of the VFW Bylaws was amended by vote.

On Sept. 2, 2021, the amended text, "An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation only if the individual is serving or has served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States..."

This change removes the requirement of US citizenship or status as a US national from our requirements, which brings the Bylaws in line with our Congressional Charter.

2021-22 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2021-22 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 2021-22 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

POST DEVELOPMENT

Membership's phones have been ringing off the hook! Many of you are asking questions we discussed in last month's edition of the National Headquarters Bulletin and that is a good thing! If you are a Quartermaster or Membership Chairperson and do not know all the resources available to you on vfw.org through our Online Membership System (OMS), then you have some work to do! If you do not know what the National Membership Program is or where to find it, then you have more work to do! The good news is – the National Membership Team have answers for you. If you are trying to increase your membership, understand how to get more involved in your community or just want to understand your membership resource tools better, give us a call at 888.564.6839. We will help you get on track to have a productive membership year. The Time is Now!

UPCOMING TRAINING

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be **Oct. 11, 2021**. Look for the Membership Monday Zoom meeting invite in an Online Membership System (OMS) notification 3-5 days prior to scheduled Webinar training. All members can join. In addition, the Zoom link will be emailed as a meeting invitation to each Department's leadership and VFW Auxiliary President.

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at membership@vfw.org.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

As always, please remember you have many resources available to you at vfw.org, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/. The Membership Facebook Page is routinely updated to showcase informational videos. View our latest Hip-Pocket training video, answering the most frequently asked questions. For any questions or further information, contact the Membership Department via email at membership@vfw.org or call us at 888.564.6839.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters (as of 9.23.21):

Larry M. Gerlt – 120

VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

Michael J. Eason – 68

VFW Post 9376, Dept. of MD

Randy L. George – 62

VFW Post 2952, Dept. of AR

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:

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
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

Grants offered by the VFW Foundation will return starting Oct. 1, 2021. We are excited to announce that we will be providing more grant opportunities to Posts than ever before under the umbrella of our new #StillServing grants! This program will include:

- An opportunity for a Post to receive up to three separate grants during a one year period.
- Grant funding for volunteer hours served.
- Larger grants for partnering with local affiliates of VFW National corporate supporters.

Please visit our website, vfw.org/grants, on the launch date Oct. 1 for more information.

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, RPotter@vfw.org.

Development

VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2021 – In September, we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2021. We hope you enjoy these cards along with the other gifts that were included in the package. In the letter that was sent with the cards and gifts, we asked you to consider taking some time to visit or call a hospitalized service member or veteran in your community. You can visit heroes.vfw.org/Volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please remember that the VFW's life-changing programs would not be available to veterans of all generations without the generosity of its members. Your donation to the VFW helps support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Sign a Card for a Veteran – You may receive a package this month with a special Christmas card for you to sign for a lonely, hospitalized veteran or current service member. We want to get a Christmas card to as many veterans and service members in VA medical facilities as possible before Dec. 25. Please sign the card and return by Nov. 22 and a VFW volunteer will deliver it to a veteran who didn't think anyone remembered or cared. And when you mail the signed Christmas card back, please include a special holiday donation if you can to help support the VFW National Veterans Service. With your support of VFW National Veterans Service, the VFW is able to fight – and win – vital legislative battles on Capitol Hill. The VFW is on the front line in the fight for education, jobs, health care and an overall better quality of life FOR VETERANS!

Veterans Day Sign-A-Card Campaign to Friends of Freedom Online Community – As Veterans Day approaches, Friends of Freedom members will receive an email inviting them to sign a card to be printed and delivered to a hospitalized veteran or service member. Join us as we honor America's heroes in signing a card to show them our appreciation for all they have sacrificed for our freedom. Signing a card may seem like a small gesture compared to what they have done for us but hearing from you while in the hospital means the world to a veteran. Keep an eye out for this email and don't forget to sign the card!

Helping the VFW for Generations to Come – One of the easiest ways to continue providing support for your brothers and sisters-in-arms, as well as their families, is to name the VFW in your will or trust. It only takes a few words, and you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. Just a small percentage of your assets could go a long way in helping the VFW continue its mission into the future.

Free estate planning information is always available by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119, email plannedgiving@vfw.org or visit vfw.org/PlannedGiving.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic 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 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 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 visit 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. These resources are available at 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 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!

Veterans & Military Support Programs

Please use the links provided below for all VMS programs and donations. We no longer accept email or faxed requests or reports.

VMS Formstack Links:

- **VFW Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp
- **AUX Website Solution:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp
- **Chairman Report:** VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report
- **MAP Grant Application:** vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication
- **MAP Grant Report:** vfw.org/MAPGrantReport

- **Adopt a Unit Application:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport
- **VMS Online Donation:** <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1>

Donating to the VMS Program can also be done on the VFW Dashboard by going to the link “**VMS Donation**” at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Your \$100 or more donation to the VMS Programs meets the eligibility criteria for All American in this category. 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/category/military.

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 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. For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam.

NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM. This year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will select an elementary, middle or high school teacher to receive the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher award. Teacher Award Chairman must submit one candidate for this award to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate for the award and submit the winner to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

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 as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, or on to the Department with the completed entry form.

VFW’s Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2021-22 program year. The Teacher Entry form is now available on the VFW website.

Simply visit vfw.org/#login, 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 be contacting 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 the VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email nlopez@vfw.org or call 816.968.1155.

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 total \$154,000 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2021-22 themes were chosen by then-Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "America: Where do we go from here?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "How can I be a good American?"

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS. The new 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

UPDATED VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL. An updated version of the Voice of Democracy Chairman's Manual is now available on the VFW Website. Changes to program include:

- Judging no longer has to be conducted in person, and can be completed remotely at the Post, District and Department level.
- The preferred format for Voice of Democracy audio essays is now Flash Drives/USBs or email submission. CDs will no longer be accepted.

Simply visit vfw.org/Login.aspx, log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: vfw.org/VOD/

Patriot's Pen: vfw.org/PatriotsPen/

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.

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1, 2022. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award

Each Department will receive their three 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 general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs, 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 Chairmen 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. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those 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**.

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.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2021-22 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit vfw.org and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." *Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness week," as designated by Congress.* Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation.

2020-21 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to announce that Cole-Miers VFW Post No. 3619 in DeRidder, Louisiana, was selected to receive the 2021 VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award, which recognizes VFW Posts for unique and outstanding community service projects.

Post 3619 was selected for its unbelievable resiliency and extraordinary dedication to supporting and caring for its community in the wake of the deadly 2020 Hurricane Laura. Despite Post 3619's Post home sustaining major water, wind and structural damage, including a 7-foot-wide tree crashing through the roof, Post members focused their efforts on helping others.

For several weeks members worked clearing major lines of communication, removing trees from houses, and clearing debris to allow access for emergency personnel. The Post also teamed up with several local organizations to prepare and feed more than 2,000 people in the first week, and collect and distribute more than 200,000 tons of supplies to families in need around the state.

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 21, 2022 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 17, 2021 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. 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

Medicare plans causing confusion? Lockton Affinity and Humana can help.

Through the VFW Insurance Program, veterans like you have access to Medicare plans from Humana, including:

Medicare Advantage — All-in-one coverage

The all-in-one Medicare Advantage plan that includes prescription drug coverage and offers the security of an annual out-of-pocket maximum. Many plans also include coverage for routine dental, vision and hearing care, with a \$0 monthly premium in most areas.

Medicare Part D — Stand-alone Rx coverage

Ever filled a prescription and been shocked at the high price? Do you take daily maintenance medications? Original Medicare doesn't cover prescription drugs, but you can help close that gap in your coverage with a stand-alone prescription drug plan.

Medicare Supplement — Medigap options

Original Medicare doesn't cover everything, but a Medicare Supplement insurance plan can help pay some of the out-of-pocket costs that Original Medicare doesn't, like copayments and deductibles.

Learn more today at VFWInsurance.com/Medicare.

“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.”

BUDDY POPPY UPDATE (5/20/2021): 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 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 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 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, 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.

National Veterans Service

National Veterans Service In-Person Skill Level Training Conferences

National Veterans Service is continuing to plan for its in-person training conferences this fall for VFW accredited representatives. Based on current CDC guidance, VFW will ensure that proper safety protocols are in place during the conference.

NVS successfully completed Basic and Advanced training the week of Sept. 19-24, 2021.

Our next training session will be held Nov. 14-19, 2021, when NVS will host Intermediate Skill Level Training, which is intended for accredited representatives who have completed Basic Training but have less than five years of experience.

Formal notification to students who are required to participate in these conferences were sent prior to VFW National Convention and students are making arrangements to attend.

National Legislative Service/Action Corps

Take Action!

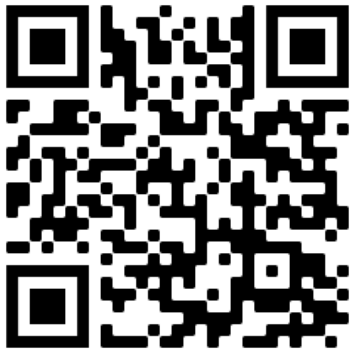
Congress is voting now on the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2022. There are two critical amendments that need to stay. [Contact your members of Congress](#) and tell them to keep the *Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act* and the *Major Richard Star Act* as amendments in the NDAA for 2022. Now is the time to honor GWOT veterans and provide Purple Heart recipients the benefits they earned and deserve.

Veterans from all eras have experienced an array of unexplained health conditions and illnesses associated with the toxic exposures and environmental hazards they encountered in service. Congress must create a new framework for VA to grant benefits to these veterans. [Contact your members of Congress](#) and tell them to support the COST of War Act and the Honoring our PACT Act. Congress must pass this crucially needed legislation now.

YOU Are VFW Action Corps!

If you are not already a member of VFW Action Corps, we need YOU! Please sign up to receive the VFW Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter and Action Alerts. Your engagement with your members of Congress is crucial in helping us get vital pieces of veterans' legislation passed into law. There are three ways you can join:

- 1) Scan the QR Code



- 2) Text "VFW" to 50457
- 3) Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

Be informed and be involved. Take action and make a difference. YOU are VFW Action Corps!

Administrative Operations

2022 REVISED PODIUM EDITION – CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:

The 2022 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 122nd National Convention, effective Sept. 2, 2021, can be purchased through the VFW Store at vfwstore.org/products/22690.

Roll Call of Departed Comrades

RYLANT, STEVEN A., All American Commander, Department of Colorado, 2008-2009 and a Life Member of Loveland Post 41, Loveland, Colorado, September 1, 2021.

1. The following National appointments are hereby announced:

NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF:

Brett Spencer, Post 1685, Anchorage, AK
John Morrow, Post 475, Newark, DE
Gladwin Spohr, Post 10692, Grafenwoehr, Germany
Ronald Lockwood, Post 8616, Honolulu, HI
Matthew Biggs, Post 7019, Kuna, ID
Sean Conner, Post 10009, Tuscola, IL
John De Groot, Post 1337, Mount Prospect, IL
Kyna Simpson, Post 311, Richton Park, IL
Ernest Moscoe, Post 6423, Erlanger, KY
Susan Hewes, Post 8835, Winslow, ME
Norman Morgan, Post 5368, Morley, MO
Joseph Wolfgeher, Post 7356, Parkville, MO
Michael Baird, Post 6273, Oberlin, OH
Larry Lonca, Post 8040, Buffalo, OH
Frank Madey, Post 9340, Columbia Station, OH
Shannon Wagoner, Post 3035, Delphos, OH
Laurence Lyons, Post 8180, Songtan-Si, Korea
Thomas Brown, Post 3460, Media, PA
Thomas Hanzes, Post 7599, Transfer, PA
Benjamin Mastridge, Post 6495, Levittown, PA
John Otte, Post 3258, Chalfont, PA
Elizabeth Salvador, Post 914, West Mifflin, PA
Carl Trusiak, Post 566, Vandergrift, PA
Robert Blurton, Post 4798, Trenton, TN
Herbert Hill, Post 12206, Murfreesboro, TN
James Theriault, Post 4918, American Fork, UT

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL:

Frederick Bacorn, Post 3629, Fairbanks, AK
Mark See, Post 3205, Alexandria, KY
Thomas DiOrrio, Post 3420, Newark, DE
Billie Sherd, Post 10708, Illesheim, Germany
Sean Mattimoe, Post 970, Hickman AFB, HI
Dale Smith, Post 3646, Glenns Ferry, ID
Ronald Boomer, Post 99, Decatur, IL
Clarence Caraker, Post 3455, Anna, IL
Robert Sable, 454, Bloomington, IL
John Bouchard, Post 9389, Caribou, ME

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Paul Frampton, Post 1667, Ridgedale, MO
Philip Rippee, Post 4101, Marshfield, MO
Joshua Atwell, Post 1577, Camden, OH
Thomas Price, Post 2743, Norwalk, OH
David Rhodes, Post 5645, Findlay, OH
Steven Richards, Post 7490, Louisville, OH
Shawn Siegrist, Post 9340, Columbia Station, OH
James Brown, Post 5958, Titusville, PA
Robert Hinkle, Post 5265, Spring Grove, PA
Amy MacKenzie, Post 3376, Ephrata, PA
Michael Mc Lane, Post 7069, Clark Summit, PA
Wayne Perry, Post 3368, Mount Pleasant, PA
Ronald Peters, Post 212, Bradford, PA
Hannah Blurton, Post 4798, Trenton, TN
Jesus Fuentes, Post 12206, Murfreesboro, TN
Timothy Von Bon, Post 9413, Tooele, UT

2. Members are reminded that under the subscription dues model, an annual members dues expire on the last day of the month of which they paid the previous year. Annual members are encouraged to renew their dues prior to their anniversary month to avoid a lapse in continuous membership. Officers and committee members, whose membership is not in good standing by reason to pay current dues by the end of anniversary month, shall forfeit eligibility to hold any office the remainder of the administrative year.

In addition, every effort should be made to renew the membership of continuous members and sign up new and recover former members at all times during the year.

3. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to the Commander-in-Chief's decision in response to questions raised concerning alcoholic beverages and smoking/vaping in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting as set forth below:

It is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting. Accordingly, the presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are unacceptable and are prohibited.

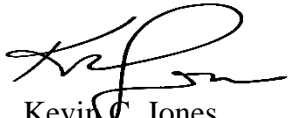
It is the intent of the Commander-in-Chief's decision, regarding this response, to include Post, County Council, District and Department meetings, whereas it is held to be objectionable. Please refer to section 1001 (25) of the National Manual of Procedure.

4. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 1718 and 250 consolidated as Post No. 1718, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Post Nos. 583 and 10362 consolidated as Post No. 583, Middletown, Connecticut
Post Nos. 680 and 7054 consolidated as Post No. 680, Lexington, Kentucky

BY COMMAND OF
FRITZ MIHELICIC
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin C. Jones', written in a cursive style.

Kevin C. Jones
Adjutant General

PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. October 2021



2021

October 7 - 10	Junior Vice Commanders & New Adjutants-Quartermasters Only Kansas City, MO
October 15 - 17	Big Ten Conference Rapid City, SD
October 29 - 31	Eastern Conference Ocean City, MD
November 4 - 7	Western Conference Reno, NV
November 14 - 19	Accredited Service Officer Intermediate Skill Level Training Annapolis, MD
November 18 - 21	Southern Conference Hilton Head Island, SC

2022

February 27 - March 3	Legislative Conference Washington, DC
April 28 - May 1	Senior Vice Commanders & All Adjutants-Quartermasters Kansas City, MO
May 19 - 22	Kansas City Spree Kansas City, MO
July 16 - 21	National Convention Kansas City, MO
August 19	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
August 20 - 21	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 12 - 15	Fall Legislative Committee Meeting Washington, DC
November 4 - 6	Eastern Conference Manchester, NH

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE

2023

- July 22 - 27 National Convention
Phoenix, AZ
- August 25 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Kansas City, MO
- August 26 - 27 National Council of Administration Meeting
Kansas City, MO
- September 11 - 14 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC

2024

- July 27 - August 1 National Convention
Louisville, KY
- September 6 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting
Kansas City, MO
- September 7 - 8 National Council of Administration Meeting
Kansas City, MO
- September 9 - 12 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting
Washington, DC

2025

- August 9 - 14 National Convention
Columbus, OH

2026

- August 15 - 20 National Convention
Salt Lake City, UT