



VFW Community Achievements

The VFW takes great pride in its history of service to its communities both stateside and abroad. Annually, VFW and Auxiliary members donate nearly nine million hours to community service projects, relief efforts and local VA facilities each year.

- 1915 VFW Post 2100 helped sponsor a Boy Scout troop in Everett, Wash.
- 1916 First national VFW essay contest held
- 1922 "Buddy"[®] Poppy program began
- 1923 Entered the war on drugs by printing a resolution calling for an international conference
- 1927 Provided \$10,000 to Mississippi Valley flood victims
- 1930 First VFW scholarship award (\$300) goes to a Boy Scout
- 1936 Boy Scout-VFW plan of cooperation was signed
- 1938 Supported the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
- 1940 VFW Junior Rifle Clubs are formed with National Rifle Association
- 1942 VFW Aviator Cadet Program began
- 1950 Cooperative disaster-relief plan developed with the Red Cross
- 1952 The Dunn family (Kansas flood victims) won a \$75,000 farm in Washington courtesy of the VFW
- 1953 VFW National Teen-er Baseball: First tournament was held in Hershey Park, Pa.
- 1956 150,000 kids took part in the national VFW marble competition
- 1958 Became full partner with Voice of Democracy (VOD)
- 1959 Minnesota VFW/Auxiliary raised \$325,000 for dedication of the VFW Cancer Research Center at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis)
- 1961 Assumed primary sponsorship of VOD — within four years 262,000 students participated
- 1962 Lite-a-Bike program: A \$300,000 project with 3-M Co. of St. Paul, Minn., provided "Scotchlite" reflector tape — 50,000 VFW members from 4,500 Posts participated
- 1964 VFW/Auxiliary provided nearly \$100,000 to earthquake victims in Anchorage, Alaska
- 1970 Drive-to-Survive program began
- 1973 Drug Awareness program began
- 1979 VFW Political Action Committee formed
- 1980 Minnesota VFW Posts sponsored the U.S. hockey team in the Winter Olympics
- 1983 Agreed to permit the Red Cross to use VFW facilities as shelters and relief centers during national disasters and emergencies
- 1986 Donated \$122,000 to the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund
- 1990 Provided \$49,000 to California earthquake victims
- 1992 Provided \$197,000 to relieve victims of Hurricane Andrew and other disasters
- 1993 Relief funds totaled \$500,000
- 1995 Youth Essay Contest (7th-8th grades) began

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- 1997 "Buddy"® Poppy celebrated 75th anniversary
- 1998 VFW Posts raised \$100,000 for the March of Dimes
- 1999 VOD gave \$2.5 million in scholarship monies to high school students
VFW donated \$50,000 and 25,000 reprints of its war chronology to Vietnam Veterans Memorial's Young American Vietnam War Era Studies Project
- 2000 Distributed 60,000 audio books to armed forces worldwide through *Operation Yarnspinner*
- 2002 Donated \$110,000 to diabetes research
Equally distributed \$120,000 among families of active-duty personnel killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon
- 2003 Partnered with USA Freedom Corps homefront initiative
- 2004 Established relationships with the National Council for Social Studies (NCCS) and National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
- 2005 Provided \$560,000 to Gulf Coast veterans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
Distributed 5,000 copies of CD entitled, "Vietnam: A Nation Remembers"
Established VFW Military Scholarship program
Expanded Patriot's Pen Essay Competition
- 2007 Radiothon raised nearly \$100,000 for Unmet Needs
- 2010 Donated over \$648,000 toward construction of the Vietnam Veterans Education Center
Increased Voice of Democracy National Scholarships to \$150,000
Provided over \$20,000 to assist service members with family in Haiti following the January earthquake
- 2011 Pledged \$500,000 toward the construction of the Veterans Hall in the National Museum of the United States Army
Provided over \$145,000 in emergency financial relief to military families living in tornado-stricken areas
- 2012 Provided over \$120,000 for Hurricane Sandy victims on the East Coast
- 2013 Provided \$30,000 for the Moore, Okla., tornado victims and over \$30,000 for the flood victims in Colorado
- 2015 Provided \$10,000 to the Pacific Areas for typhoon relief
- 2016 Provided \$25,000 for flood relief in Louisiana
- 2017 Provided \$621,300 in aid for victims of Hurricanes Matthew, Irma, Harvey and Maria, and \$19,000 for victims of the California wildfires
- 2018 Provided \$139,000 in aid for victims of Hurricanes Michael, Irma and Florence, and \$35,000 for wildfires in California and Colorado. Provided \$55,000 for Pacific area victims of Tropical Cyclone Gita, and victims of the Mount Kilauea volcanic eruptions, and \$20,000 for disaster relief efforts in Saipan.