

OCTOBER 2023

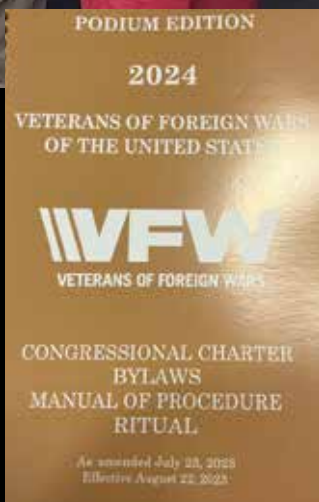
MAIL CALL

23-24 GENERAL ORDER-04 PAGES 4-5

COMMANDER DELANEY PRESENTED

POST COMMANDER SIMMONS AND MEMBERS OF POST 5735

WITH THE 2022-2023 NATIONAL OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



4 World War II and 2 Korean War Recovered

Click here [2024 Podium Book](#)

23-24 COMMANDER DELANEY'S  
PIN AND MOTTO



TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Cover                                      | page 1      |
| Table of Contents                          | page 2      |
| State Commander's Message                  | page 3      |
| 23-24 General Orders-04                    | pages 4-5   |
| October Dates to Remember                  | page 6      |
| Commander's Challenge                      | page 7      |
| District Meetings Schedule                 | pages 8-10  |
| Future National Convention Dates           | page 10     |
| State Sr. Vice Commander's Message         | page 11     |
| State Jr. Vice Commander's Message         | page 12     |
| State Adjutant's Message                   | page 13     |
| National Committeemen Corner               | page 14     |
| National Council of Administration Minutes | pages 15-16 |
| Legislative Priorities                     | pages 17-18 |
| Department Membership Status               | page 19     |
| Recovered MIA's                            | page 20     |
| District 9 Meeting                         | page 21     |
| Flu Shots Information                      | page 22     |
| VFW Programs Deadline Dates                | page 23     |
| National Headquarters Bulletin             | pages 24-35 |
| Commander's Shirt Order Form               | pages 36-37 |
| Senior Vice Commander Raffle               | page 38     |
| 2023 Buddy Poppy Order Form                | page 39     |

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

**DUANE T. SARMIENTO**

**MEET THE CHALLENGE**



2023-2024

**SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2023**



**NOVEMBER 2-5, 2023**

**RIVER SPIRIT CASINO**

River Spirit Casino Resort, 8330 Riverside Pkwy  
Tulsa, OK 74137

**MID-WINTER 2024**



**JANUARY 25-28, 2024**

**THE HOTEL BENTLEY**

200 Desoto Street  
Alexandria, LA 70131

**STATE CONVENTION 2024**



**JUNE 27 - 30, 2024**

**THE HOTEL BENTLEY**

200 Desoto Street  
Alexandria, LA 70131



---

---

## STATE COMMANDER MESSAGE

---

Greetings Comrades. If you've been in any organization, you know that membership is a necessary part in the order to maintain existence. It's no different in the VFW. Every morning we get an email from National membership showing how the Department is doing. Well, Louisiana is at the bottom of this list, yes, I said the bottom, last, only way is up. Last year we burned up the membership ladder and hit the top!! Let's keep the foot on the pedal and move up. Go visit the veteran or conduct Buddy Checks, they work. Go to a local retirement home, veterans are there waiting to talk to someone, and the most important thing is to make a good contact and let those veterans they MATTER!! Always carry an application and verify the veteran's eligibility.

CIC Sarmiento has dropped a challenge for October. Each post that increases life membership and life installment each division will receive \$500. I'm going to add to this. The winning post commander and quartermaster will be invited to a steak dinner. I'd also like to invite all District Commanders to beat the bushes to help increase membership. If a District Commander's District recruits, new life, life installment, or retains members will also be invited to this steak dinner. These invites are to include spouses or significant others.

I mentioned retain. When you're reading the Leadership book, you'll see a section about ALL- State. To be considered for All-State, your post must have 85% retention. Because what good does it mean if we can't keep those members coming back and maybe being an active member in the post. There is also something else in the leadership book. Membership must be over 100% for All-State.

Continue to work on the programs. This is also past of All-State and All-American. Membership for All-American is 102%.

I've been asked about the one thing I would like to see each VFW Member do is to read the "Podium" book. Why? Because it's the bylaws and ritual book and it dictates everything we must do and how to accomplish what we do. When confronted with an issue, the answer is in the "Book".



RON DELANEY  
Air Force - Post 4588

Let's get out there and bring in the veterans and families and maybe help someone in need of companionship, comradeship or just the feeling of belonging to an organization again.

**Nothing can beat an organization when everyone works together towards a common goal.**



# 23-24 General Order-04

PAGES 4 - 5 ARE TO BE READ AT MEETINGS THEN POSTED

## MANDATORY:

**General Orders:** All material in the State General Orders is directive in nature and will be read to the membership at the Post regular membership meetings each month. Some of these have remained the same and will remain for a while longer to instill their importance to our order. New Items will be added to the General Order and will have some highlighted in Red areas.

## ARTICLE X - RULES OF ORDER

### Sec. 1001 - Rules of Order Governing All Meetings.

25. The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or use of smoking/vaping products in VFW

meeting rooms during VFW meetings are **prohibited**.

**Post Commanders:** If you, your Quartermaster, or Adjutant do not have an email address please designate a member of your Post, with an email address, to disseminate information from District and Headquarters. Also, please ensure the Post roster is always up to date and accurate.

### Article I, Sec. 103 - Election.

Applications. After the applicant has filled out the application card, it should be provided to the Post Adjutant or Quartermaster, together with the dues (and admission fee, if applicable). A receipt shall be given to the applicant.

An applicant may be recommended after eligibility has been fully determined by the Post Reviewing Committee. With respect to a Department Member-at-Large, the National Organization and/or the Department Headquarters will be responsible for eligibility determination.

The original application of every member will be retained on file with the Adjutant. **Balloting on Applications.** Before voting on the application during a Post meeting, the Commander shall allow the members present an opportunity to state their objections, if any, to the admission of the applicant. Unless one member present shall request a written ballot, a vote shall be taken and a majority of the votes cast shall decide acceptance or rejection of the application.

**WEARING OF HATS:** Attention of Commanders, at all levels, are directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in the **National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure Article VIII, Section 803**; Cap. A cap of the overseas type, lettered with VFW initials, Post numerals, state, rank of office (when applicable), and bearing the Cross of Malta emblem, shall be the regulation cap to be worn with or without the uniform. The color shall be green, shade 51. Lettering on each cap shall be in gold.

Organizational echelons will be designated by the color of the braid (piping) and letters on the caps as follows:

Post officers, members and Past Post Commanders -- gold braid; County Council officers and Past County Council Commanders -- bright blue braid; District officers, except District Commanders and Past District Commanders -- bright green braid; Department officers and Past Department officers, Conference officers and Past Conference officers, and District Commanders and Past District Commanders -- bright

red braid; National officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief -- silver braid.

The National Council of Administration may designate other colors or color combinations of the cap, braid and lettering to be worn on the caps of All-American and All- State honorees, life members and aides-de-camp. Past Commanders-in-Chief and National officers with a Council vote, other than National District Council Members, may wear white caps with gold lettering and braid.


Regulation caps shall be worn by elected and appointed officers at all official meetings. Uniforms. Subject to the approval of the sponsoring units, color guards, drill teams and similar units may adopt optional uniforms and campaign hats, berets, helmets or other headgear for wear at parades, assemblies and similar events and at official functions in the performance of duties. Headgear shall be uniform for all members of the unit. If organizational emblems are worn on VFW Color Guard Headgear, one of them must be the Cross of Malta.

**and VFW Ritual;**

General Rule 13, (a) All members who are able will stand during the offering of the prayers; (b) members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart; (c) official caps will not be worn during luncheons, banquets or other meals; (d) Official caps will be the only head covering allowed to be worn at regular meetings of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

BY COMMAND OF  
RON DELANEY  
STATE COMMANDER

OFFICIAL:

  
Mitchell R. Cota, PSC  
State Adjutant

# OCTOBER 2023

| Sunday | Monday            | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                 |
|--------|-------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--------------------------|
| 1      | 2                 | 3       | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7                        |
| 8      | 9<br>Columbus Day | 10      | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14                       |
| 15     | 16                | 17      | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21                       |
| 22     | 23                | 24      | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28<br>District 7 Meeting |
| 29     | 30                | 31      |           |          |        |                          |
|        |                   | Notes   |           |          |        |                          |

October 9 - Columbus Day (observed)

October 13 - U.S. Navy Birthday

October 28 - National "Make a Difference Day"

October 31 - Patriot's Pen student entry deadline to Posts

October 31 - Voice of Democracy student entry deadline to Posts

October 31 - Teacher Award entry deadline to Posts



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

# COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

**This membership year has started strong, and we want to keep that momentum going! To encourage long-term success, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has issued a special challenge to all our VFW Posts to increase our Life Membership during October!**



Throughout the month of October, the Commander-in-Chief has challenged us to build a stable and strong membership foundation for the future, and one of the best ways to accomplish this is through Life Membership.

The Post in each membership division that has the most New, Reinstated, and Upgraded Life and Life Installment members during October will receive a \$500 cash award plus a CIC Medallion set!

This challenge will count any VFW member who either pays the full amount for a Life membership or who makes the initial \$45 payment and enters into the Automatic Payment Plan to make Installment payments for a Life membership during the month of October 2023.

Remember that when processing a member online for the Installment Plan, they **MUST** check their email and click the link to complete their entry into the Automatic Payment Plan! Without that, their upgrade cannot be processed!

When we talk about the strength of our membership, our Life Members are a solid part of establishing that membership base. When they make a commitment to the VFW for Life, it helps our ranks grow and encourages everyone to join them and

**MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

This contest will count all members of a Post who make a full one-time payment for Life Membership and/or complete processing for the Automatic Payment Plan for Installment Life Membership between October 1 and October 31, 2023. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

# DISTRICT MEETINGS

| District Meeting/Workshop  | District Meeting/Workshop  | District Convention   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>District 2</b><br/><b>August 26, 2023</b></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3267</b><br/>1133 Hickory Ave., Harahan, LA 70123<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Meetings 10am</p>  | <p><b>District 2</b><br/><b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p>District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3750---</b><br/>140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Meetings 10am</p>   | <p><b>District 2</b><br/><b>May 4, 2024</b></p> <p>District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3750</b><br/>140 Angus Dr., Luling, LA 70070<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Meetings 10am</p>   |
| <p><b>District 3</b><br/><b>August 26, 2023</b></p> <p>School of Instruction</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>5097</b><br/>1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>  | <p><b>District 3</b><br/><b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p>Business/Awards</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>5097</b><br/>1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>   | <p><b>District 3</b><br/><b>April 20, 2024</b></p> <p>Business/Elections</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>5097</b><br/>1004 Tiger Dr., Thibodaux, LA 70302<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>   |
| <p><b>District 4</b><br/><b>August 19, 2023</b></p> <p>Workshop Following C of A</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>9822</b><br/>120 VFW Road, Duson, LA 70529<br/>Registration - 9:00 a.m.<br/>Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m.<br/>Lunch - 12:00 p.m.<br/>VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> | <p><b>District 4</b><br/><b>November 18, 2023</b></p> <p>Programs</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>4158</b><br/>102 Jimmy C Vorhoff Jr Dr.<br/>Abbeville LA 70510<br/>Registration - 9:00 a.m.<br/>Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m.<br/>Lunch - 12:00 p.m.<br/>VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> <p><b>District 4</b><br/><b>February 10, 2024</b></p> <p>Mid-Year Update/Awards</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>1982</b><br/>1907 Jefferson Terrace Blvd., New Iberia, LA 70562<br/>Registration - 9:00 a.m.<br/>Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m.<br/>Lunch - 12:00 p.m.<br/>VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> | <p><b>District 4</b><br/><b>April 13th</b></p> <p>Elections</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>4158</b><br/>102 Jimmy C Vorhoff Jr Dr.<br/>Abbeville LA 70510<br/>Registration - 9:00 a.m.<br/>Joint Opening - 10:00 a.m.<br/>Lunch - 12:00 p.m.<br/>VFW/Aux Business Session - 1 pm</p> |



# DISTRICT MEETINGS

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 5</b><br/><b>September 9, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3802</b><br/>5416 Hwy 27 S., De Quincy, LA 70633<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>       | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 5</b><br/><b>November 12, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>9854</b><br/>2292 Highway 109 S, Vinton, LA 70668<br/>Registration 1pm<br/>Sessions start at 2pm.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>             | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 5</b><br/><b>April 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>7321</b><br/>2668 Hwy 171 North, Lake Charles, LA 70611<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$?)</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 7</b><br/><b>August 19, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>8971</b><br/>3809 Highway 190, Eunice, LA 70535<br/>Registration 9am.<br/>Meeting start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>                | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 7</b><br/><b>October 28, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>2484</b><br/>123 N Liberty St., Opelousas, LA 70570<br/>Registration 9am.<br/>Meeting start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>           | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 7</b><br/><b>May 18, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>5153</b><br/>1020 VFW Drive, Arnaudville, LA 70512<br/>Registration 9am.<br/>Meeting start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$8)</p>                   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 8</b><br/><b>September 9, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3784</b><br/>13214 S Choctaw Dr., Baton Rouge LA 70815<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 8</b><br/><b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3693</b><br/>42430 Church Point Rd., Gonzales, LA 70737<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 8</b><br/><b>April 27, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nomination and Elections</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>4224</b><br/>3215 Ben Williams Lane, Baker, LA 70714<br/>Registration 9am-10am.<br/>Sessions start at 10am.<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$7)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 9</b><br/><b>September 16, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>8290</b><br/>28000 Main St., Lacombe, LA 70445<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Sessions start at 10am<br/>Breakout 11am</p>                   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 9</b><br/><b>January 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3652</b><br/>15800 Demarco Lane., Hammond, LA 70403<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Sessions start at 10am<br/>Breakout 11am</p>                | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 9</b><br/><b>April 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>8720</b><br/>21470 Mire Dr., Abita Springs, LA 70420<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Sessions start at 10am<br/>Breakout 11am</p>                 |

# DISTRICT MEETINGS

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 10</b><br/><b>September 16, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3841</b><br/>2471 Leglise St., Mansura, LA 71350<br/>Registration 10am<br/>Sessions start at 10:30am<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 10</b><br/><b>February 17, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>8852</b><br/>2419 3rd St., Alexandria, LA 71302<br/>Registration 10am<br/>Sessions start at 10:30am<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 10</b><br/><b>May 18, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>3139</b><br/>412 Elmo S., Marksville, LA 71351<br/>Registration 10am<br/>Sessions start at 10:30am<br/>Lunch 12pm. (\$10 Donation)</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 11</b><br/><b>August 26, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>5442</b> (Farmerville)<br/>100 Hudson Rd., Farmerville LA 71241<br/>Registration/meet &amp; greet 10:30am<br/>Meeting 11am:</p>              | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 11</b><br/><b>January 13, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>3615</b> (Ruston)<br/>200 E. Mississippi Ave., Ruston LA 71270<br/>Registration/meet &amp; greet 10:30am<br/>Meeting 11am:</p>            | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 11</b><br/><b>May 4, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meeting place:<br/>Post <b>1809</b> (Monroe)<br/>1499 Highway 594, Monroe LA 71203<br/>Registration/meet &amp; greet 10:30am<br/>Meeting 11am:</p>               |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 12</b><br/><b>September 9, 2023</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>5187</b><br/>860 Dahlia Vines St., Zwolle, LA 71486<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Lunch (\$10)</p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 12</b><br/><b>January 20, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Meeting</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>4588</b><br/>1004 Jeter St., Bossier City, LA 71111<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Lunch (\$10)</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>District 12</b><br/><b>May 11, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">District Convention</p> <p>Meetings place:<br/>Post <b>5951</b><br/>1315 Northgate Road, Bossier City, LA 71112<br/>Registration 9am<br/>Lunch (\$10)</p>                                  |

## FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

July 27 - August 1, 2024 - National Convention, Louisville, KY

August 9 -14, 2025 - National Convention, Columbus, OH

August 15 - 20, 2026 - National Convention, Salt Lake City, UT

July 31 - August 54, 2027 - National Convention, Milwaukee, WI

August 5 - 10, 2028 - National Convention, San Antonio, TX

---

---

## STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

---

I hope this article finds all of you well. I look forward to seeing many of you at your post and district meetings. I will be attending meetings to learn more about my fellow comrades and determine if I can help you in any way. Please let me know if you have anything that I can help do. If any of you are interested in serving on a committee at the state level, now is the time to let me know.

By now each of you should have submitted for your post bonds. According to the By Laws, it is not just your Quartermaster who needs to be bonded. The Bylaws state that "Each officer accountable for funds or property pursuant to any provision of these Bylaws shall be bonded with an indemnity company as surety in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which, so far as can be anticipated, they may be accountable." I hope each of you have submitted all required bonds.

According to the Commander duties, commanders shall "Be an ex-officio member of all committees." What does this mean? The commander shall be a member of the committee and have the same rights as other members of the committee, unless your post Bylaws state something different. The same rule applies to the Chairman of the committee. Your Bylaws should determine if the Chairman is elected or appointed. If the Chairman is elected, then an elected officer cannot hold that position. If you have any questions about this rule, feel free to call me or another state officer.

Hopefully, all posts have sent requests for your Americanism, Patriot Pen, and Voice of Democracy to your schools (public, private and home), and other locations like local papers or social media. The due date for the program entries is 31 October to the post. Please check your due dates for district and state so you don't miss out on participating in the programs. If a student took the time to complete and submit an entry, we owe it to them to do our due diligence to get the entry forwarded to the next level. These programs are dear to my heart because if we don't teach students about patriotism and Americanism at a young age, we will lose the opportunity for them to learn.

Lastly, I want to discuss what commemorative dates the Bylaws tell us that each post shall observe. According to the Bylaws each post shall arrange to observe



**DEBBIE McELHANNON**  
Army - Post 9854

Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, and Loyalty Day, as well as commemorating other dates listed in the Ritual. The Bylaws also go into more detail about Memorial Day observances. The post should place suitable grave markers, wreaths, and flags on the graves of deceased members.

I hope you have a wonderful and successful program year. We can only achieve the State program year goals, with your assistance. We must work as a team to ensure the VFW Department of Louisiana has a successful year and we continue to improve.

### **FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER**

June 27 - 30, 2024 - State Convention  
Alexandria, LA

---

---

## STATE JR. VICE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

---

Comrades,

It was great seeing Posts across Louisiana honoring Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action! Thank you for recognizing and honoring our Comrades. Nearly 81,000 service members remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/Other conflicts. Let's continue to our efforts to bring recognition until all our comrades come back home.

Reminder: Americanism, Patriot's Pen, & Voice of Democracy entries are due to Posts by October 31, 2023. Good luck and hope to see all Posts participate this year.

For all you gamers, the VFW launched its Combat Tested Gaming! To kick off this exciting endeavor, Combat Tested Gaming debut season will feature leagues for popular competitive video games Call of Duty, Warzone and Rocket League. League winners will go on to compete in the 2024 VFW National E-Gaming Championship that will be livestreamed from the 125th National Convention. This could be a great recruiting tool.

***"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things."***— President Ronald Reagan



**JAMES M. PRESTENBACK**  
Army - Post 3665





## STATE ADJUTANT'S MESSAGE

Comrades,

This month I was asked by Commander Delaney to represent him and the Department at District 10's meeting. I was honored to represent and reconnect with old friends, a fellow Air Force Security veteran, and hopefully made a few new connections and friends along the way.

I listened to each Post Commander as they rose and delivered their reports. Not much has changed since my time going up and out of the Department chairs of leadership. Posts are losing members faster than we can replace them, either from their passing or just simply no longer able to participate the way they once used to or would like to. A push to get the Department's programs done or trying to find enough comrades to handle them at the Post and District levels to their completion is another problem that we face each year. This is a fact and unfortunately a fact that we have been fighting for a long time. Since 2008, when I first became active within our Department and the VFW, it just seems to be the battle that never ends.

So, as I did at District 10 meeting, I am asking everyone to reach out to your communities in different ways, and some of you may have already tried these, and if you have, to try it once again. The people you asked before that said no may no longer be there. Check with other organizations to see if they have bulletin boards in the buildings, like Churches, groceries stores, barber shops, anywhere that may have one and are willing to let you put up an advertisement or sign in their establishment. Ensure it states your meeting day, time, and point of contact and phone number.

You can also go to the National Website to customize and print recruitment posters, with your Post contact info after logging in to the site; go to **VFW Training and Support** page, then **Membership Recruiting & Retention** page, then down to **Promotional Materials**, and click on the blue highlighted [Visit the new Media Room to access and download resources](#). Customize the one that best suits your Post. It is something new to try and you may find some new members.



MITCHELL R. COTA, PSC  
Air Force - Post 3750



## COMMITTEEMEN CORNER

Happy October one and all, let's not get spooked about our standing in the Membership rankings, take a stance and check on all the ghosts and goblins on those Unpaid Lists and work to get them back to current status. CIC Sarmiento has set the bar at 102% for 2023-2024, let us not be one of the Departments that do not reach or surpass the goal.

Now for Council news, I continue to send each of the District Commanders a weekly update for them to share with the Posts Commanders in order for the information to trickle down to you the members. If you as a Post Commander or a Post Member are not getting this information let me know and I will contact your District Commander and see where the problem lies. Below is an update from our Adjutant General Dan West on a few items that National is working on:

“This last week VFW Commander-in -Chief Duane Sarmiento, Sr. Vice Al Lipphardt, Jr. Vice Carol Whitmore, Quartermaster General Marc Garduno, and myself along with each Department's Legislative Committee had a very successful time in Washington, D.C., meeting with elected representatives about several key priorities including active-duty Transition Assistance Programs, Claim Sharks, and Veteran Suicide. Many thanks to our Washington, D.C., Legislative Services staff led by Legislative Director Pat Murray for the many hours of advance work they did to make this event successful.

I would like to remind all Commands that the minimum membership goal this year is 102%. Your national membership department stands ready to assist you with any questions or resources you have or need. We already have several Posts that have reached this goal and congratulations to them for setting the example. The main reason people don't join is they have not been asked, the reason they may leave is that they are not asked to be involved.

As a reminder we will have several issues of the VFW magazine that will be Digital print only starting in 2024, unless you contact National and specifically request a printed copy of the digital issue.”

Now that we should be in full Program Mode to get our VOD, PP, TOY, Safety packages completed it is very important that Post and District Commanders follow the established deadline dates for each level, this can prevent a lot of misunderstandings and having qualified participants not given the opportunity to compete for the various awards. National establishes the guidelines for



ROBERT "BOBBY" LOVERGNE, PSC  
National Committee Member  
Air Force - Post 3750

the Department Commanders to follow, don't put yourself in a situation that can be avoided follow the dates already established.

Until next month, continue those buddy checks and start planning a Membership Recruitment event to help get us to that 102 mark. Finally a quote from Ronald Reagan that some may want to think about ***"I know in my heart that man is good, that what is right will always eventually triumph, and there is purpose and worth to each and every life."***



**SUMMARY OF MINUTES  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
Thursday, July 27, 2023**

The National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States meeting was called to order by Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento 1 hour after the adjournment of the National Convention, on July 27, 2023, with the opening prayer by the National Chaplain David Frei, followed by the Salute to the Colors and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of officers and National Council members by Adjutant General Dan West recorded all present except for Council Member Jack Hawley (Montana) who was excused.

Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento welcomed the participants to the National Council of Administration meeting and acknowledged the 10 Past Commanders-in-Chief in attendance. Then, he announced his appointments for the ensuing year: Adjutant General Dan West, Chief of Staff Carey Pritchett, Inspector General Pete Mascetti, and Sergeant-at-Arms Brian Willette.

**REPORT – ANNOUNCEMENTS – MOTIONS – ADJUTANT GENERAL:**

Adjutant General Dan West asked the Council to affirm his appointment of Assistant Adjutant General Brian Walker. Council Member Bobby Lovergne (Louisiana) seconded the motion. Motion carried. He then made a motion for affirming the appointment of Assistant Adjutant General/Executive Director of the Washington D.C. office Ryan Gallucci. Council Member Bill Thompson (New Jersey) seconded the motion. Motion carried. Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento called both individuals to the altar for recitation of the officers' obligation.

Adjutant General Dan West briefed the contents of the Council folders, announced the All-American program statistics and several motions to be presented: Development mailing, VFW National Home mailing, Awards and Citations Committee and the Adjutant General's staff appointments. Adjutant General West moved for the Council to authorize the VFW Development Department to send out various types of communications to VFW members, Posts, and known prospective supporters to encourage participation and promote funding for 2023-2024. Council Member Jeff Carroll (Georgia) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjutant General Dan West addressed the request of the National Home for a list of the 2023/2024 Post Commanders and Quartermasters to include names, addresses, and email addresses. The list will be used in conjunction with the National Home and Development Department for two direct mailings. Adjutant General West made a motion to approve the request. Council Member Jerry Peterson (Nevada) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjutant General West introduced a motion for the Commander-in-Chief appointment of Bryan Lankford, Post 5246, Nevada to the National Awards and Citations Committee for a five-year term. Council Member Chris Haynes (Ohio) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjutant General West welcomed the new Big 10 Council Members: Matthew Claussen (Illinois), Johnny Capps (Indiana), Michael Braman (Iowa), Kevin Conklin (Michigan), Dale Hoogeveen (Minnesota), Eric Sullivan (Missouri), Joseph Smith (Nebraska), Christopher Haynes (Ohio), Barbara McKean (South Dakota), Cory Geisler (Wisconsin).



## **REPORT ANNOUNCEMENTS – QUARTERMASTER GENERAL:**

Quartermaster General Marc Garduno addressed the new Council members about the documents located in the Document Repository, and mentioned the details of the financial reports that will be proposed with the budget at the August Council meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt spoke about the letter of intent with the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Council Member David Stone (Colorado) moved to take MOPH letter of intent off the table for discussion. Motion was called out of order.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento made an announcement that he is appointing an Investigative Committee in addition to the other committees provided to the Council.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento called on the Sergeant-at-Arms to present the new Council Members to the front of the room for the pinning of the new Council pin.

Council Member Greg Stafford (North Carolina) brought up the pay salary for the budget, which is to be presented at the August Council meeting. Council Member Rockey Davis (Idaho) mentioned Post Quartermasters and the pin number they receive to access OMS and Council Member Denis Parizek (Utah) stated that the Quartermaster pin number may easily be obtained by contacting the VFW's Member Service Center. Council Member Chris Haynes (Ohio) applauded the organization's 124 years after reiterating this organization began at a tailor shop in Columbus, Ohio. The Council took the time to share their condolences for the wife of Jack Hawley (Montana). Appreciation was given to the Commander-in-Chief by two Council Members for being a National representative for Department Conventions.

## **REMARKS - JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:**

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore stated how privileged she felt being up in front of everyone and looks forward to working with the Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Council, and Headquarters staff in the coming year.

## **REMARKS – SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:**

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt declared that the Council would be informed of VFW organization operations and welcomed Carol Whitmore aboard. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Lipphardt stated that the Departments need to become active and get involved, and in closure, thanked the room for everything that they do and are continuing to do for the betterment of the organization.

## **REMARKS – COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:**

Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento brought up Adjutant General Dan West who addressed the Council and provided a briefing for the upcoming August Council meeting. Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento opened with the remembrance today, July 27, 2023, is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Korean war. Commander-in-Chief Sarmiento asked the Council members to be mentors and leaders in their respective Departments for the welfare of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. He stated he will continue past Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland's efforts in recruiting at least one new member and asked every Council member to recruit at least one new member.

## **CLOSING CEREMONIES:**

The Sergeant-at-Arms conducted the closing ceremonies. National Chaplain David Frei gave the closing prayer followed by a salute to the colors. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.



Legislative Report September 2023

These are the key Topics from this month. Please read through these and let me know your thoughts on how we can continue to show Louisiana, that our Elected Officials are committed to our Veterans.

## September 4th:

**Progress Against Claim Sharks:** New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed state legislation which makes it a violation of the Consumer Fraud Act for unaccredited individuals to receive unlawful compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits. VFW Post 1333 in Neptune City hosted the law's signing. "Our veterans put their lives on the line in service to our country and have more than earned the benefits for which they and their loved ones are eligible," said Murphy. "We must protect veterans and their families from unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them by overcharging for assistance with those benefits. This legislation will help ensure these bad actors either follow all applicable federal standards or face the consequences." Read more.

**Don't Wait to Apply for PACT Act Benefits:** VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, and VFW National Veterans Service Director Mike Figlioli participated in a Facebook Live event to discuss PACT Act benefits and eligibility. One clear message from the discussion was don't wait to apply for benefits or appeal denials from previous claim applications. Military service in areas covered by law from 1955 to the present that resulted in a diagnosis of a presumptive condition may result in compensation by VA. Survivors are also encouraged to apply as deceased veterans may have benefits that extend to eligible family members.

**Access Vet Center Mental Health Counseling:** Vet Centers offer free and confidential mental health and readjustment counseling in communities across the United States and its territories. While widely known as a resource for veterans, they also assist eligible service members and families. Available services include individual and group therapy, family and bereavement counseling, and referral assistance.



MATTHEW J. WEST, PSC  
Army - Post 3619

## September 11th:

**VFW Remembers 9/11:** Today marks the 22nd anniversary of the terrorist attacks that changed America forever. The memories of that day are still vivid and raw in our nation's heart, but the heroism that emerged from the rubble of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in the air above a rural Pennsylvania field should inspire Americans for generations to come. As we remember 9/11 and the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost that terrible day, the VFW hopes all Americans pause to reflect on those we lost and those who continue to sacrifice in the defense of freedom.

**VFW Salutes Medal of Honor Recipient:** Army pilot Capt. Larry Taylor was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Joe Biden in recognition of his heroic actions to save his fellow brothers-in-arms during the Vietnam War. With little regard for his own safety, Taylor flew into enemy fire to rescue four reconnaissance team members from almost certain death. VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci attended the White House ceremony to honor Taylor.

**Op-Ed Says Don't Ground Veteran Pilots:** A Washington Post op-ed penned by VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci explains that using VA benefits or seeking physical or mental health care should not be an automatic disqualifier for pilots. This is especially true considering the industry is woefully understaffed and looking to the veterans' community to help solve the problem. Gallucci wrote that the VFW "respects the difficult jobs our pilots do every single day and believes that the FAA has a duty to ensure the safety of millions of Americans who travel every year. If people are outright lying, they deserve scrutiny but this is a bold accusation that does not align with how the VFW reads this [FAA] report."

### September 18th:

**VFW Fall Legislative Conference:** The VFW National Legislative Committee members met with senators, representatives, and staffers in Washington, D.C., to discuss the [VFW's legislative priorities](#). Specific focus was given to cracking down on predatory claims companies, consistent access to VA benefit enrollment for service members, and the role of economic opportunity benefits in helping to prevent veteran suicide. The VFW will continue to advocate for these issues to assist service members, veterans, and their families. Senate Confirms New

**VA Deputy Secretary:** The Senate voted to confirm Tanya Bradsher to be the VA deputy secretary. Bradsher is a 20-year Army veteran, and she will be the first woman to serve in this role. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) released a statement in which he commended her record of serving. As VA Chief of Staff, she oversaw the implementation of the PACT Act. [Read more.](#)

**VA End-of-Life Benefits:** VA has launched a campaign to inform veterans and their family members about end-of-life benefits. Being aware of available benefits and services before a veteran passes away can help make it easier to navigate the process and plan ahead. [Learn more](#) about resources and options for yourself or your family.

**VFW Urges Senator to Stop Hindering Military Promotions:** The VFW is calling on Sen. Tommy Tuberville from Alabama to lift his hold on the routine promotion of military general and flag officers. VFW National Commander Duane

Sarmiento said, "The line in the sand for the VFW is simple: Political disputes must be handled by politicians -- not within the ranks of the all-volunteer force. Sen. Tuberville's hold on these routine promotions has consequences up and down the active-duty force that will take years to fix." [Read more.](#)

**Senate Confirms New VA Deputy Secretary:** The Senate voted to confirm Tanya Bradsher to be the VA deputy secretary. Bradsher is a 20-year Army veteran, and she will be the first woman to serve in this role. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jon Tester (D-MT) released a statement in which he commended her record of serving. As VA Chief of Staff, she oversaw the implementation of the PACT Act. [Read more.](#)

**House Subcommittee Hearing on Education:** The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held an oversight hearing on education benefits for veterans. Subcommittee Chairman Derrick Van Orden expressed his concern with the impact of risk-based surveys and other administrative requirements imposed on schools through legislation over the last few years. The VFW shares his view that requirements established to protect student veterans from predatory schools have gone too far and have had the unintended consequence of becoming too burdensome for schools with limited staff and resources. We are concerned with the number of schools that are opting out of VA education benefits, and will continue to monitor the situation. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 9:09 mark.

**Prevent Benefits Fraud and Hold Bad Agents Accountable:** The VA Office of Inspector General seeks your help in preventing Public Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBOs) fraud schemes. These schemes include either unaccredited agents or unscrupulous health care providers charging unjustifiable fees with promises to exaggerate a veteran's medical condition to secure a higher rating than the evidence warrants. [Know the signs and take action.](#)

Respectfully,

Matthew J. West  
VFW, Department of Louisiana  
National Legislative Committee Member  
2020-2026







# POW/MIA RECOVERED

--**Army Sgt. 1st Class James L. Dorrance**, 20, of Omaha, Nebraska, was a member of B Battery, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery–Automatic Weapons Battalion, Division Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division, Eighth Army. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950, and to have died on March 17, 1951. He will be buried in his hometown on a date to be determined. [Read about Dorrance.](#)

--**Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Max E. Dailey**, 21, of Cherokee, Iowa, served with the 409th Bombardment Squadron, 93rd Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force. He went missing in action on Aug. 1, 1943. He will be buried in Charles City, Iowa, on a date to be determined. [Read about Dailey.](#)

--**Army Cpl. Lewis W. Hill**, 18, of Detroit, Michigan, was a member of L Company, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He went missing in action on July 20, 1950. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953. He will be buried in Imlay City, Michigan, on a date to be determined. [Read about Hill.](#)

--**Army Staff Sgt. Max W. Thurston**, 19, of Flint, Michigan, was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Nov. 6, 1944. He will be buried in Holly, Michigan, on a date to be determined. [Read about Thurston.](#)

--**Army Tech Sgt. Leonard J. Dettloff**, 26, of Detroit, Michigan, was assigned to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was killed in action on Nov. 10, 1944. He will be buried in Holly, Michigan, on a date to be determined. [Read about Dettloff.](#)

--**Army Cpl. James A. Hurt**, 25, of East St. Louis, Illinois, was a member of the 17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group, Army Air Forces. He was reported captured on April 9, 1942. Interment services are pending. [Read about Hurt.](#)



A fallen veteran returning home with Military Honors.



## DISTRICT 9 MEETING



State Commander Ron Delaney, places the Post Commander All American Team Cap on Post Commander Larry Simmons during the District 9 meeting held at Post 8290 in Lacombe, LA.



District Commander Jason Kahl present as State Commander Ron Delaney presents Posy Commander Larry Simmons with his All American Award for the 2022-2023 year.

# Flu Shots

## General Information

*This information from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is for Veterans and their families. This fact sheet answers some questions you may have about the flu shot.*



### Who should get a flu shot?

Everyone age 6 months and older is recommended to get a flu shot each year by VA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

### Why should I get a flu shot?

- Getting a flu shot is the best way to slow the spread of flu from person to person.
- A flu shot can protect you and your family or friends against flu.
- Because of flu, thousands die and many more are hospitalized each year in the U.S.
- Anyone can get flu, but some people are at high risk for complications from flu:
  - people age 65 and older
  - people with health problems like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, chronic lung disease, and other chronic illnesses or conditions
  - pregnant women or people caring for an infant or a family member with health problems

### How well does the flu shot work?

Studies show that getting a flu shot can reduce illness and death from flu.

### When should I get a flu shot?

- In the fall, as soon as flu shots are available. A flu shot will protect you the entire flu season.
- Get a flu shot every year as flu viruses can change from year to year.

### Why do I need a flu shot every year?

- Flu viruses can change over time.
- Every year, the flu shot vaccine is updated to protect against the flu viruses most likely to spread that year.

### Can I get flu from a flu shot?

**No!** Only inactive (dead) flu virus is used to make flu shot vaccine, so **you cannot get flu from a flu shot.**



### Fast Facts: What is flu?

- Flu - short for influenza - is a respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses.
- Flu spreads easily. It occurs every year, mainly during fall, winter, and spring.
- Flu is different from a cold. People with flu usually feel achy and have a fever.



# **VFW PROGRAMS DEADLINE DATES**

## **Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award**

- \*October 31, Entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- \*February 1, Department winners and reports due to National (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation)

## **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen**

- \*October 31, Student entries to the Post
- November 15, Completion of Post judging
- December 15, Completion of District judging
- January 10, Completion of Department judging
- January 15, District participation reports due to Department Chairmen
- \*January 15, Department winners due to National
- \*January 31, Department reports due to National

## **Scout of the Year**

- \*March 1, Scout entries to the Post
- \*April 1, Post entries to Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs
- \*May 1, Department entry to National from Department Scouting Chairman or Department HQs

## **Community Service**

- \*April 30, Post Special Project & Fred C. Hall Award Submission (Department to National)
- \*April 30, National Outstanding Community Service Post Submission(s) (Department to National)
- \*June 30, Community Service Reports Deadline

## **Public Servant National Award (Law Enforcement, Firefighter, Emergency Services)**

- January 1, Nominations due (from Post to Department)
- \*February 1, (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), Nominations due from Department to National

## **National Certificate of Recognition**

- April 1 (to guarantee receipt for Department Convention presentation), List due to National from Department

***\*Required deadline (by VFW National Headquarters.) All other deadlines are suggested, and can be internally set at the discretion of the VFW Department leadership. Post Chairmen, be sure to communicate with your District Chairmen to find out their official deadlines, and District Chairmen need to communicate with their Department Chairmen to find out their deadlines.***

Updated 8/1/2022

## Membership

### COMMANDER'S CHALLENGE

This membership year has started strong, and we want to keep that momentum going! To encourage long-term success, Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento has issued a special challenge to all our VFW Posts to increase our Life membership during October!

Throughout the month of October, the Commander-in-Chief has challenged us to build a stable and strong membership foundation for the future, and one of the best ways to accomplish this is through Life membership. The Post in each membership division that has the most new, reinstated, and upgraded Life and Life Installment members during October will receive a \$500 cash award plus a CIC Medallion set!

This challenge will count any VFW member who either pays the full amount for a Life membership or who makes the initial \$45 payment and enters the Automatic Payment Plan to make installment payments for a Life membership during the month of October 2023. Remember that when processing a member online for the Installment Plan, they **MUST** check their email and click the link to complete their entry into the Automatic Payment Plan! Without that, their upgrade cannot be processed.

When we talk about the strength of our membership, our Life members are a solid part of establishing that membership base. When they make a commitment to the VFW for life, it helps our ranks grow and encourages everyone to join them and **MEET THE CHALLENGE!**

This contest will count all members of a Post who make a full one-time payment for Life membership and/or complete processing for the Automatic Payment Plan for Installment Life Membership between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31, 2023. Applications and payments processed online before close of business will be credited that day, payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

### ALL-AMERICAN POST CAP ORDER INFORMATION

Members of an All-American Post may submit their cap order through the VFW Store.

### 2023-24 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The 2023-24 Membership Program is available online at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2023-24 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

### MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIVES

As the membership year has begun, keep in mind our membership objectives, also written in the 2023-24 Membership Program.



- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- For Posts, Districts and Departments to reach 102% membership by June 30, 2024.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life membership and Legacy Life membership.
- Provide membership assistance using teams from your conference to assist and mentor those who request assistance.

**NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD**

**New Post Development and Post Revitalization Department Award:** For each new Post chartered, and/or revitalized, the Department Quartermaster will receive:

- A \$250 credit from the VFW Store to be used towards necessary materials for the new Post.

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief’s National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

**UPCOMING TRAINING**

Membership Monday training webinar will be on Oct. 9, 2023, at 2:00 PM, CDT, Topic: TBD.

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs, and important resource information throughout the year - [facebook.com/VFWmembership/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembership/).

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 9.27.23):

**Steven L. Woodward – 323**  
VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

**Frank M. Persa – 125**  
VFW Post 5580, Dept. of WA

**Joseph T. Allen – 102**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://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><b>Levels</b></u> |            | <u><b>Posts</b></u> | <u><b>Departments</b></u> | <u><b>National</b></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

The 10th Anniversary of the VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero campaign will run from Oct. 8 – Nov. 11, with over 1,800 franchised stores participating. Join the campaign and donate at [vfw.org/2023HAH](http://vfw.org/2023HAH).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Brooke Brown, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, [bbrown@vfw.org](mailto:bbrown@vfw.org).

The May 2023 Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs campaign raised over \$430,000, which brings total fundraising for this fiscal year to \$745,000. Since the fundraiser's inception in 2007, Burger King and its supporters have donated over \$7.6 million to Unmet Needs!

The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that we have received a four-star rating by Charity Navigator, the site's highest rating. Charity Navigator, the most respected and utilized independent nonprofit evaluator, examines over 200,000 U.S. charities using the metrics of Impact & Results; Accountability & Finance; Leadership & Adaptability; and Culture & Community. Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive a coveted four-star rating and only 1/10 of all charities receive a perfect 100% score. The VFW Foundation attained both!

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org).

## Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, **membership dues alone cover just 18% of the cost of programs**. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. *Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.*

**VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2023** – In September, we mailed the VFW's Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2023. 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](http://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.

**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 choose a special card and message online to sign so we can print and deliver 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!

**Sign a Christmas 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. 20 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 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!

**A Simple Way to Make a Big Difference** – Making a gift in your will is the easiest way to support the VFW and your fellow veterans after your lifetime. Did you know just a few sentences in your will can make a lifetime impact? We invite you to learn more about this type of legacy gift and the lasting impact you can leave your family and the VFW. Free information is available by visiting [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](http://vfw.org/PlannedGiving), contacting the VFW Planned Giving office at 816.968.1119 or emailing [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Adjutant General Dan West 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 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 toll-free 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. By visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools), you will find the latest fundraising program



information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. 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

### **VMS All-American Requirement**

VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. An email was sent out June 29, 2023, annotating this change and explaining the NEW donation page. All Posts must click on the VMS donation tab on the Dashboard to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters.

If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department HQs and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily. No more weekly updates.

Overseas Departments will donate for the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. Again, this will automatically update for credit daily.

**Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your continued support!**

### **Veterans & Military Support (VMS)**

If your Department ordered and received the 2023-24 VMS Lapel Pins, please pay for them as soon as possible. You may use the VMS Donation link on the upper right-hand corner of the Dashboard.

As the Veterans & Military Support Program evolves and streamlines our operations, we have augmented the current Veterans & Military Support Programs Chair Tools webpage. This will be updated every month.

### **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"**

The 2024 Spring semester runs through Nov. 15, 2023. The application is available online only at [vfw.org/scholarship](http://vfw.org/scholarship).

## 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/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**2023-24 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.** The Veterans of Foreign Wars wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions, and institutions effectively through this program.

Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for the next competition. 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 an entry form, a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available.

VFW Post Teacher Award chairpersons may submit one candidate, in each category (K-5, 6-8, 9-12), to their District by Nov. 15. If a Department does not have a District judging, then the Post winning entries would be submitted to the Department Headquarters and/or Department Chairperson by Jan. 1. The Department may select a single candidate, in each category, and submit them to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1 for National judging.

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

VFW’s Department Citizenship Education Teacher award includes a citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

VFW’s 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 their school; and an all-expense-paid trip to attend a VFW National Convention.

**Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. have the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2023-24 program year. The teacher entry form, information page, and Chairpersons Guide are available on the VFW website.**

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://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.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN ESSAY CONTEST DEADLINE REMINDER.** The deadline for the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen essay contests is quickly approaching. The students must have their completed entry form with the (audio and/or written) essay submitted to a participating VFW Post by **Oct. 31, 2023**. Each corresponding deadline for Post, District and Department to have their entries to the next level are: Nov. 15, 2023, for completion of Post judging; Dec. 15, 2023, for completion of District judging; Jan. 10, 2024, for completion of Department judging and the Department winners are due to National Headquarters by **Jan. 15, 2024**.

**Please ensure that the entry forms are filled out completely and that the appointed individual at the Post is available to receive the entries and answer questions. As we get closer to the deadline, more students and parents will be reaching out trying to find a participating Post so we want to ensure they can make contact.**



Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](https://vfw.org/#login), 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 **Chairperson Guides** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

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 separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto: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 totals \$172,000, with the top three awards being raised to \$35,000, \$21,000 and \$15,000. The Patriot's Pen National Awards total is \$55,000.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2023–24 themes have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento. The Voice of Democracy theme is **“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”** and the Patriot's Pen theme is **“How are you inspired by America?”**

**NOTE:** “NEW” Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen posters are now available!

Anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairpersons) 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/](https://vfw.org/VOD/)

Patriot's Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](https://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](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**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 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairperson's Guide.

Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](https://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.

*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/citizenshipeducation](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizenshipeducation).

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** New this year, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician category has been added. Departments are asked to submit five nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1, 2024. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW Firefighter Award

- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Award
- VFW National 911 Dispatcher Award
- VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (E.O.D.T.) Award

All Department Public Servant Citations must be requested through the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Request Form” through Formstack. VFW Programs staff will email the form link to Department Adjutants and Quartermasters. Deadline for Department submissions to National is Feb. 1 to receive for Department Convention presentations.

Each Department will receive their requested 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, EMTs, dispatchers and EODTs personnel, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant).

NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM. This form has been developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairpersons 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, by Oct. 31. Once a winner in each category has been chosen, the Post will forward the winning entries on to the next level of judging.

Simply visit [vfw.org](http://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**.

NOTE: Remember, the First Responder Medal is available through the VFW Store. To review this item, please click on the following link: [vfwstore.org/products/32134](http://vfwstore.org/products/32134).

**CONDUCT A VETERAN’S DAY PROGRAM ON NOV. 11.** Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to the information found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairperson’s Guide. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please go to: [vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches](http://vfw.org/MY-VFW/Patriotic-Holiday-Speeches). Click here for Veterans Day merchandise [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday).

**NEW UPDATES.** VFW National Programs has updated the Fred C. Hall and Outstanding Community Service Post Award programs starting this program year. Please share this with your Community Service Chairpersons.

**The new programs are as follows:**

**FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.** Each year on July 1, the national Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based off their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 the previous year. Your community service total impact is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Fred C. Hall Memorial Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

**OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR.** Each Department will have an OCSP winner based on total impact. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

**“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG – OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](https://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

### Get a better understanding of your Medicare plans options.

If you need additional coverage beyond your Medicare Part A Hospital insurance or Medicare Part B Medical insurance, Humana can help!

Available through the VFW Insurance Program, veterans like you have access to:

#### **Medicare Advantage** — All-in-one coverage

The all-in-one Medicare Advantage plan 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

Standard 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 standard Medicare doesn't, like copayments and deductibles.

Learn more today at [VFWInsurance.com/Medicare](https://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 three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

**BUDDY POPPY UPDATE:** National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective Aug. 1, 2023:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order within 90 days of processing, 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](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 chairperson’s 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.

**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. Anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we do not 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.

## National Veterans Service

### STUDENT VETERAN SUPPORT GRANT

The VFW recognizes that both funding and support for our student veterans and dependents at institutions of higher learning can often be difficult to find. The **VFW’s Student Veteran Support Grant** offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The grant, administered by the VFW



Washington Office, focuses on supporting the overall student veteran population within the community, which consists of many student veterans at campuses across the country that are not affiliated with an SVA chapter. The grants will be disbursed to the VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application, to support the student veterans at the university or college.

#### Grant Eligibility:

- Applicants must be VFW members associated with an appropriate entity of the VFW (VFW Post, District, Department, or National).
- Appropriate VFW Post, District, Department, or National leadership serve as the convening authority on the grant request and is responsible for receiving funds.
- Funds must be utilized for events and outreach designed to assist and support veterans currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.
- Grants may be awarded up to \$500 to support each event, and grants can be awarded to a VFW entity twice each fiscal year, totaling up to \$1,000.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### VFW on Capitol Hill

The VFW National Legislative Committee members met with senators, representatives, and staffers during the VFW Fall Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss the [VFW's legislative priorities](#). Specific focus was given to cracking down on predatory claims companies, consistent access to VA benefit enrollment for service members, and the role of economic opportunity benefits in helping to prevent veteran suicide. The VFW will continue to advocate for these issues to assist service members, veterans, and their families.

## Administrative Operations

### 2024 REVISED PODIUM EDITION – CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:

The 2024 copies of the podium edition of the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 124th National Convention, effective Aug. 22, 2023, can be purchased through the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/products/22690](https://vfwstore.org/products/22690).

## VFW Store

**Entry deadlines are Oct. 31** for the teacher award, and the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests. Show appreciation for entrants at your Post with commemorative items from the VFW Store:

Voice of Democracy: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy?page=1&size=50](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy?page=1&size=50)

Patriot's Pen: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen?page=1&size=50](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen?page=1&size=50)

Teachers: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation](https://vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation)



**Veterans Day** is just around the corner – order now to receive your merchandise in time. We offer parade items, patriotic apparel and more. Go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/specials/veteransday).

**Buddy Poppy** items are also available at the VFW Store. Go to [vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy?page=1&size=50](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy?page=1&size=50)

To order, go to [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) or call 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387).

# 2023-24 State VFW Commander & Auxiliary President Shirts

See Order Form for Pricing Information

## MEN'S STYLE POLO

These run true to size.



POLO SHIRTS AVAILABLE IN SHORT SLEEVE ONLY WITH BOTH MEN'S & WOMEN'S STYLE OPTION.

## WOMEN'S STYLE POLO

\*Please Note Women's Polos run small & you should order up a size.



**ALL SHIRTS**  
WILL HAVE  
COMMANDER / PRESIDENT  
LOGO EMBROIDERED ON  
LEFT SIDE  
WITH OPTIONAL  
PERSONALIZATION UP TO 3  
LINES ON RIGHT SIDE  
EXAMPLE  
(NAME/TITLE/ POST#)

MEN'S & WOMENS LIGHT BLUE BUTTON DOWN  
LONG OR SHORT SLEEVE AVAILABLE

These run true to size.



## OUR SPECIAL PROJECT TAPS

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors is on every shirt. A big THANK YOU to our VFW home Post 4588 for sponsoring that extra cost! It was important to us to help bring awareness to the valuable resources TAPS provides. It is on the sleeve of the Polos & on back yoke of button ups.



# 2023-24 State Commander & President Shirts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Post#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

## BUTTON UP

PERSONALIZED OPTION

Shirt with Commander/President Logo on Left & Name /Title UP TO 3 LINES on Right

Men's & Women's Long or Short Sleeve

Print Name/Title (up to 3 lines)

| Size         |        | Small   | Medium  | Large   | X Large | 2X      | 3X      | 4X      |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cost         |        | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$45.00 | \$45.00 | \$45.00 |
| Long Sleeve  | Men's  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|              | Ladies |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Short Sleeve | Men's  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|              | Ladies |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |

## BUTTON UP

Shirt with Commander / President Logo ONLY

Men's & Women's Long or Short Sleeve

LOGO ONLY NOT PERSONALIZED

| Size         |        | Small   | Medium  | Large   | X Large | 2X      | 3X      | 4X      |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cost         |        | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 |
| Long Sleeve  | Men's  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|              | Ladies |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
| Short Sleeve | Men's  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|              | Ladies |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |

## POLO

PERSONALIZED OPTION

Short Sleeve Polo with Commander/President Logo PLUS Name /Title UP TO 3 LINES

Men's & Women's Short Sleeve POLO

Print Name/Title (up to 3 lines)

| Size         |        | Small   | Medium  | Large   | X Large | 2X      | 3X      | 4X      |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cost         |        | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$45.00 | \$45.00 | \$45.00 |
| Short Sleeve | Men's  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|              | Ladies |         |         |         |         |         |         | N/A     |

## POLO

Short Sleeve POLO with Commander/President LOGO ONLY

Men's & Women's Short Sleeve POLO

LOGO ONLY NOT PERSONALIZED

| Size         |        | Small   | Medium  | Large   | X Large | 2X      | 3X      | 4X      |
|--------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Cost         |        | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$35.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 | \$40.00 |
| Short Sleeve | Men's  |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|              | Ladies |         |         |         |         |         |         | N/A     |

**Make Checks Payable to Ron Delaney & Send Form & Payment to:  
 Ron Delaney, 222 S Cloverleaf Dr., Haughton, LA 71037**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



# SR VICE CDR RAFFLE

DRAWING 27 JANUARY 2024 AT MID-WINTER CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA

TICKETS \$10.00 EACH FOR 3 PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE – RUGER AMERICAN 6.5

CREEDMOOR WITH VORTEX SCOPE

2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE – WOODEN FLAG

3<sup>RD</sup> PRIZE – METAL LASER ART PIECE



RUGER AMERICAN® RIFLE WITH  
VORTEX® CROSSFIRE II® RIFLESCOPE



19" X 36"



18" X 12"

For more information contact Jennifer Lockett @ 337-602-8418 or Debbie McElhannon @ 337-526-3695. Thank you for your support!

Return tickets by 26 Jan at MWC or mail by 18 Jan to 5455 Henderson Rd, Vinton, LA 70668



DEPARTMENT OF LOUISIANA, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

PLEASE DISREGARD ANY OTHER BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORMS! THESE ARE THE PRICES YOU WILL BE CHARGED!!!!

DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_  
 POST # \_\_\_\_\_  
 AUXILIARY # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM**

MAIL TO: VFW DEPT. OF LOUISIANA  
 10185 MAMMOTH AVE.  
 BATON ROUGE, LA 70814

ALL CHECKS ARE TO BE MADE  
 PAYABLE TO "VFW DEPT. OF LA"

| QUANTITY: | ITEM:         | PRICE:     | TOTAL:   |
|-----------|---------------|------------|----------|
|           | BUDDY POPPIES | Per 1,000  | \$275.00 |
|           |               | Per 500    | \$137.50 |
|           |               | SUB-TOTAL= |          |

All other VFW Buddy Poppy supplies may be purchased directly from the VFW Store Online by visiting their website [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org). See list of other Buddy Poppy Items and Product Codes that VFW Store Offers

| ITEM NAME:                    | ITEM #: |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Buddy Poppy Coin Canisters    | A9703   |
| Buddy Poppy Posters           | 09701   |
| Buddy Poppy Volunteer Buttons | 09705   |

Visit the VFW Store website listed above to order and view more items offered!

Please allow 10-12 weeks for processing!

GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP POPPIES TO: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET ADDRESS: (PHYSICAL ADDRESS - NO -- P.O. BOXES!)

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

|                                 |   |                    |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY:</b> |   |                    |
| _____                           | QUANTITY ORDERED FROM NATIONAL - DATE _____ |                    |
| _____                           | QUANTITY SHIPPED FROM DEPT HQ               | DATE _____         |
| DATE RECEIVED _____             | CHECK # _____                               | CHECK AMOUNT _____ |