

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

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G O D C O U N T R Y V E T E R A N S

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Celebrate the Holiday Spirit by Helping Fellow Veterans – Your support of the VFW this holiday season, and throughout the year, is extremely important in helping the VFW's efforts to serve and assist veterans in need. There are many ways to help. We have recently sent out the 2010 Christmas Cards, the VFW Member Tote, and the VFW 2011 Calendar. By supporting these programs, you help veterans and their families in need throughout the year in your Department and across the country. Other ways you can help this holiday season is to deliver a warm meal to a veteran, shovel snow for the elderly or simply chat with lonely residents at VA hospitals or retirement facilities near you. These simple acts of kindness mean so much.

Also, remember to help raise money for veterans by shopping online at www.goodshop.com. When you shop at GoodShop.com, please be sure that "You are shopping for Veterans of Foreign Wars" appears in the "Who do you GoodShop for?" window. This will ensure that VFW receives a portion of your purchase as a donation. And, if you have to search the Internet for that perfect, hard to find gift – search using www.goodsearch.com. Every search performed will help raise money for our veterans programs.

Have you heard about VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – It is a realization that not everyone wants to receive our mailings but would still like to support the VFW's programs. This is why we developed Partners in Patriotism. Partners in Patriotism is a planned giving program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly basis, reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis that is either charged to your credit card, or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in this option, please contact VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at vfwfundraising@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

Department Resources – All the same great resources are still available for your Department to use and are now at www.vfw.org. You need only go to www.vfw.org and Log In. You will find "Department Resources" under the "How to Get Involved" heading. The latest program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department will be found here. Download ad slicks, press releases, banner ads and buttons for your department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your department programs. Check it out today!

Friends of Freedom – If you are not yet a member of VFW’s online community, please visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up! **Friends of Freedom** is open to everyone. There is no cost or obligation to join – and you can opt-out at any time. **Friends of Freedom** members stay “in the know” about the work VFW does to serve all our heroes. Join today, and you will receive periodic e-mails containing inspiring stories from the home front and the front line, key legislative updates, special “insider information” and so much more.

MEMBERSHIP:

Just a reminder, the Dues Notice tapes are created on the last Friday of every month.

To prevent dues notices from being sent to those who have already paid, all membership transmittals must be received in the Dues Processing Department no later than noon on the following closing dates:

TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2010 - 2011 YEAR:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE (DAY)</u>	
DECEMBER	December 31	(Friday)
JANUARY	January 28	(Friday)
FEBRUARY	February 25	(Friday)
MARCH	March 25	(Friday)
APRIL	April 29	(Friday)
MAY	May 27	(Friday)
JUNE	June 30	<u>(THURSDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)</u>

Your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that all cards are received in a timely fashion will be greatly appreciated.

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- **Leadership Reference Guide:** This can be viewed or downloaded on the new VFW.org website. Once logged in, the guide is located under the General Member Tools & Resources section. The 2010-2011 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference guide.
- **Dues Notices:** The November dues notices dropped on November 24, 2010. This is the third notice to go out this year. Annual members’ dues will expire on December 31, 2010. These memberships will need to be renewed by that date.
- **Recruiting:** There are several Posts currently participating in the “Adopt-a-Unit” program. This is an excellent way to get in touch with and build relationships with our Servicemen and women. As you connect with these service members, you also build recognition of the organization, therefore increasing the probability of them joining upon their return. Do not let this opportunity pass you by. Adopt a Unit today!
- **Recruiter Credits:** Quartermasters now have the ability to enter recruiter credits online when reinstating members or adding new members using the new Online Membership System (OMS), formerly known as E-Membership. Failure to do so may result in the loss of credit for the recruiter.

- **Recruiting Materials:** Be advised that requests from National are processed in the order received. You will need to submit your order no later than one week prior to the date needed. Shipping charges for rush orders will be billed to the Post, District or Department officer placing the order.
- **Post Commander Award:** The top ten Post Commanders in each Division that report the most new and reinstated members as of December 31, 2010 will be awarded a VFW Blanket. ******NOTE: A minimum of 20 new and reinstated members is needed to qualify.***
- **Texas Holiday - Legacy Life Contest:**
Department Commanders who increase their Legacy Life members in their Department by May 31, 2011, will receive a \$300 cash award. ******A minimum of on new legacy life member per one thousand members in your Department is needed to qualify.***

District Commanders that increase the legacy life members in their District by May 31, 2011, will receive a \$200 cash award. ******A minimum of twenty new legacy life members is needed to qualify.***

Post Commanders who sign up new legacy life members by May 31, 2011, will be placed in a drawing and six winners will be selected. ******You will receive one ballot for a new Bronze member, two ballots for new Silver members, three ballots for new Gold members and one ballot for level upgrades.*** The six winning commanders will receive round-trip airfare to the National Convention in San Antonio for the commander and their spouse, \$500 expense stipend, and special seating at the Joint Opening ceremonies on Monday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO “OPERATION FIRST STRIKE” WINNERS:

TRACY POLLARD, COMMANDER
 HOWARD-PARRISH POST 9834 – DEPT. OF ARKANSAS
 Group 1

JAMES RODGERS, COMMANDER
 WILLIAM C AMUNDSON MEMORIAL POST 12075 – DEPT. OF TEXAS
 Group 2

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 and then Coast Guard. For Military flags, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22300>.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING. Recent conclusion of the twelve-month Community Service reporting period seems to have revealed that too many Posts are not clear on the manner in which community service hours and dollars should be reported.

Twice each year, in December and June, VFW Departments file a report with the VFW Programs office regarding community service activities listed by Post.

When the Post reports to the Department, they should list the hours of community service performed by the Post, affiliated Cootie Scratch, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the VFW, Men’s Auxiliary and Junior Girls for that reporting period. Only volunteer service hours benefiting the

community are to be reported. Volunteer hours committed to projects and activities benefiting the Post and the affiliated units listed above cannot be reported.

The money that should be reported are the dollars donated or expended in the performance of the community service hours reported, plus \$.14 per mile for each mile driven by the volunteers.

Posts should not report any figures derived from the value of hours worked.

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the December judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2010 – 2011 VFW Community Activities Chairman’s Manual. Entries must be submitted with the clear endorsement of the Department Leadership.

VFW HONORS AMERICA’S TEACHERS DURING 2010 - 2011 PROGRAM YEAR.

Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post level should be completed and District level should be close to completion. Districts are to send their winning recipient from each level to the departments by December 15. After department judging, each department forwards the names of its selections to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national award contest. Deadline is January 15, 2011. Each department’s selections will receive a National Commendation citation.

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 school; and, an all-expenses paid trip to attend the VFW Legislative Conference in March 2011 in Washington, DC.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Store product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980> . Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7: Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7th as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day” and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=100>.

VFW PROMOTES NATIONAL GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY, FEBRUARY 2. Over one million students across America will experience first-hand how academic skills they learn in the classroom are put into action in the workplace by shadowing a workplace mentor in a normal day on the job. The program is spearheaded by America’s Promise Alliance.

Post members should inform their employers about this program and have them contact their local high school or Junior Achievement to participate.

For further information, the Groundhog Job Shadow coalition has a website www.jobshadow.org that lists individual state contact information. You’re encouraged to use this website and learn how the program works.

POW/MIA FLAG - OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations, and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 21 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 16, (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22305>.

BUDDY POPPY:

“To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs.” The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

POST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. Commemorate your Post’s anniversary in Buddy Poppy style! As your Post celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years, order special silver-, gold-, or diamond-colored Poppies for distribution throughout this monumental year.

Remember: With Buddy Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at department resources. (Please go to www.vfw.org and log on to MyVFW and click on Department Resources and VFW Buddy Poppy.

Contact information: nclifton@vfw.org (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResults.aspx?CategoryID=128>.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS

Simplified Issue Term Insurance

With **VFW- Sponsored Simplified Issue Term Life insurance**, planning ahead for your family’s financial security doesn’t have to be a major headache. It’s pure term protection with no fancy investment features that can drive up the cost. Coverage is guaranteed renewable and protection is guaranteed convertible.

Select pure term life insurance of \$100,000, \$75,000 or \$50,000. Call 1-800-749-6983 for more information or visit www.vfwinsurance.com.

Tricare Supplement

VFW National Headquarters is pleased to offer Tricare Supplement to VFW members and their families. To request information go to <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/Tricare.html>. You may also call 1-877-850-0183 to speak to an agent.

Cancer Insurance Plan

Help protect against the rising cost of cancer treatment with the VFW sponsored cancer insurance plan. Benefits can be paid directly to you regardless of any other insurance you may have or to your doctor if you request. Premiums are at affordable group rates. Certain limitations and exclusions apply. For more information, call 1-800-749-6983 or visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com>.

Medicare Supplement

Medicare Supplement insurance (also known as Medigap) is private health insurance designed to supplement original Medicare and pay costs that original Medicare may not cover, like deductibles, co-insurance, long-term care, blood work, or hearing aids. To find out more, call 1-877-247-1771 or visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/MedSupp.htm>.

Medicare Advantage

Medicare annual election period is from November 15 – December 31, 2010. Medicare Advantage plans offer more health plan choices. Plans are designed to provide more benefits than traditional Medicare, may include prescription drugs, dental, vision and preventive care, and may reduce out-of-pocket expenses for items such as doctors' visits.

Features:

- Lower monthly premiums, sometimes FREE
- Generic and Brand Name prescription drug benefit
- Freedom to choose your doctors, hospitals and specialists without a referral
- Preventive services at no extra cost
- Virtually no paperwork
- Emergency and urgent care worldwide.

To talk to a representative or if you would like more information, please contact Pinnacle Financial Services at 1-877-255-0884 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com.

Annuities

Annuities give you the peace of mind of a retirement vehicle that will safely grow in value, while protecting your initial investment.

Highlights of the VFW-sponsored annuity plan:

- Tax-deferred growth of retirement funds
- Guarantee minimum interest rate-safe
- Income option you cannot outlive
- Access to your funds penalty free
- Probate free.

To find out how the VFW-sponsored annuity program can give you the long-term financial security you deserve call toll-free 1-800-772-6882 or visit www.pfs-vfw.com.

Member Insurance Brochure - download or view the Member Insurance brochure online at <http://www.vfw.org/PR/MemBenefit/MemBenefitBrochure.pdf>.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

We have been informed by the US Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) in Warren, Michigan that there has been a delay in shipping M1 (Garand) ceremonial rifles. Below is a statement we received from TACOM regarding the delay in fulfilling your request.

"We regret that there is a delay in the shipping of ceremonial rifles due to the availability of spare parts for the program. As these weapons are no longer used by the Department of Defense to satisfy mission requirements, parts are not readily available to support the program. As a result, the shipment of weapons to authorized organizations is delayed indefinitely. The donations office is in the process of determining how best to correct the issue(s). As your organization has met the eligibility requirements and is authorized to receive M1 Garand rifles, your request will remain open until this office can fill your order."

TACOM still encourages members to apply for the rifles to perform ceremonial tasks but asks for your patience until the matter is resolved.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

You've done the work....Let NMS know!

Last year through the NMS programs, the VFW provided support to over 1.4 million service members, veterans and their families. We know your support at the local level goes far beyond what is reported. Help us let the general public know the impact the VFW has on military families and veterans by reporting your events to your NMS chairman.

The new VFW website is up and running and our applications can easily be found behind your "member login". Once you are logged in, just click on National Military Services—under "How to Get Involved." Please call 816-968-1155, if you have any issues with locating our applications.

With Free Call Days occurring twice a month, Operation Uplink is always looking for sponsors. It is a great opportunity for a Post or a Department, or even a local business to show their appreciation for the service members overseas. If you would like to sponsor a Free Call Day or know someone that does, please call Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

LifeLock – Identity Theft Protection

Protect Your Identity with LifeLock – the VFW sponsored program that guards against identity theft. Last year, identity theft increased 22% for a five-year high of nearly 10 million victims at a cost of \$48 million. That's an identity stolen every three seconds. But you don't have to be next. VFW has partnered with LifeLock to provide you a special savings on LifeLock's industry-leading identity theft protection service. Don't wait until it's too late. Enroll today and you'll receive a limited-time discount of 10% of the regular membership price. Help protect yourself now. Visit www.lifelock.com or call 1-800-LIFELOCK (543-3562). Use promo code "VFW".

Glow Parking LLC – Nationwide Airport Parking Network

Glow Parking, LLC, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned business, is proud to announce the VFW Foundation as its primary charity. www.vfwparking.com extends Glow Parking's nationwide airport parking network to members of the VFW and their families. Originally developed for the Federal government, www.vfwparking.com offers the same best value rates, and you never pay any booking fees. The reservation system to book your airport parking is quick, simple, secure, and best of all – guaranteed! You have easy access to your reservation history; therefore, you never need to worry about losing a receipt again. Visit www.vfwparking.com, or call 1-877-891-GLOW (4569).

Veterans Travel Service, Inc., – a VFW member benefit worth remembering!

If you are planning a trip, whether it is for business or personal, one of the member benefits is just a phone call away. Veterans Travel Service, Inc. has been working with VFW members since 1986 and can handle all your travel needs. They are experienced in every area of travel. It could be for a tour, cruise or vacation package. You receive a VFW rebate when booking with Veterans Travel Service. If you need help with airline tickets, their expertise might be the ticket you need; although they charge service fees, the savings will usually far outweigh the cost of the fee. So if you're travelling soon, call them at (800) 325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

Save with Sprint!

Switch to Sprint cellular service and save! Sprint has joined with the VFW to offer members, employees and their families several incentives with the purchase of a new wireless device and subscription through this exclusive program. Not only will you receive a 15% monthly discount on your cell phone service, but you will also receive additional gift cards or accessories with your order.

Already, a Sprint customer? Refer another member who signs up for new service and receive a \$25 prepaid debit card. These offers are only valid at: www.sprint.com/vfw or 1-866-869-6686.

Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to 20% off the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. Give agent special discount ID number 62615 at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels.

Call 1-877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

Car Rental Discounts

Whether it is business or pleasure, receive discounts for car rentals from Hertz, Avis, Alamo, Budget and National:

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: CDP164126
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification number: A993500
- Budget: Call 1-800527-0700 VFW identification number: V026800
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification number: 42592
- National: Call 1-800-227-7368 and request VFW Contract ID 5180005.

Medical Air Services Association (MASA Assist)

Emergency assistance transportation to private or VA hospitals at your discretion. To learn more call: 1-800-423-3226 or visit www.masaassist.com/vfw. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

Veterans Care Plus (VCP)

Hearing Aid Program, Diabetes Care Management, Drug Savings Program and US Vision Plan. To find out more call: 1-877-252-0970 or visit www.veteranscareplus.com. Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

Dell Computer Discounts

To order by phone-Members call 1-800-695-8133 and mention ID# PS30482412. For Posts, call 1-800-695-8133 and mention ID# PS76832215.

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