

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

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>.

FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY. The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day.

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2010 - 2011 PROGRAM YEAR. Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post and District level should now be completed. 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 Emblem and Supply, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

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.

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was created 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.

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>.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

National Veterans Service is Counting on You! – Your support of our veterans and their families is especially needed at this time. January marks the kick-off for the 2011 National Veterans Service Annual Campaign. This campaign supports the assistance necessary to ensure veterans receive the benefits and entitlements they have earned. The VFW has formed a national cadre of highly trained service officers to counsel and assist America's veterans. These tireless advocates ensure that necessary evidence is collected, claims are properly completed, and when necessary, VA decisions are appealed in a timely manner so that promises made to veterans are kept!

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.

VFW at Work! – Please be sure to visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork to read the inspiring stories of how VFW Departments, Posts and individuals are reaching out to America's defenders and their families. You can sign up to receive the monthly VFW at Work! e-newsletter by entering your email address where it says “Keep Up With Veterans Issues and What VFW is Doing.” Don't forget to check the site often to see the new success stories of veterans and military families being helped by VFW. Be sure to click on the “Read More Stories” link at the bottom of the page to view an archive of VFW success stories from fellow members around the country.

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 – now found 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!

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS

VFW Real Estate & Mortgage Services

The VFW Home and Loan website is a one-stop resource for all your home financing and real estate needs. VFW Real Estate & Mortgage Services gives you access to competitive mortgage rates and special offers along with help from experts who can answer your questions and walk you through the process of buying or selling a home, refinancing or setting up a new mortgage www.vfwhomeandloan.com.

VetJobs.Com

Search 40,000 job postings at VetJobs. Take advantage of the Employee Assistance section that has helpful tips on how to write your resume and lists all legitimate job boards on the Internet. Learn how to interview effectively. The “How to Find a Job” article gives every job seeker the help they need to find a job.

VetJobs is partially owned and exclusively sponsored by VFW. VetJobs assists active duty military, transitioning military, National Guard, Reservists, veterans, DOD civilians and their family members.

Visit www.VetJobs.com for more information, or call 1-877-VET-JOBS (1-877-838-5627).

Senior Term Life Insurance

Your acceptance is guaranteed - up to \$25,000 in coverage for VFW members and spouses ages 45 – 75. No medical exam or questions and the policy cannot be cancelled due to changes in health. To receive free information, call 1-800-749-6983 or request information online at <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/SrTermLife.htm>.

High Limit Term Life Insurance

To receive a quote for Individual Term Life coverage at limits of \$100,000 to \$3,000,000, go to <http://www.icinsure.com/vfw/> or call 1-800-715-5836 x6830.

VFW Sponsored Funeral Program

VFW National Headquarters is a proud sponsor of The Dignity Memorial® Network of funeral homes and cemeteries. Dignity Memorial providers serve more veterans than any other funeral service provider, and their staff of professionals are knowledgeable in veterans’ burial benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition to expertise, Dignity® providers support veterans through programs such as the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall and the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program. Special pricing and Free Veterans Planning Guides are offered to VFW members. For more information or to request your Veterans Planning Guide, visit www.DignityVeteransVFW.com.

VFW Insurance

For information about various insurance plans sponsored by VFW National, please visit www.vfwinsurance.com.

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

112th National Convention Housing will officially open March 1, 2011. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website accessed through the main VFW website at www.vfw.org. The convention web site will also have general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information for San Antonio (August 27-September 1, 2011).

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the

National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to www.vfw.org.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

New Members--New Congress – Now that the 2010 elections are over, it is time to educate your legislators. Contact them in their district offices – offer your congratulations to those reelected and get to know the new members of the 112th Congress. It is critical that you educate them on the VFW’s Legislative Priority Goals. Now is the time for veterans across the nation to be more visible and active in the process. We must remind those elected what we stand for and why – VA healthcare for all veterans, a timely benefits process, improved services to homeless veterans, specialized care for women veterans, jobs and education for those serving in harm’s way, to name a few. Let your members know that you have an interest in veterans’ issues and that you stand ready to assist their staff in helping them understand the issues important to you and the VFW. As a constituent, you have influence – use it!

Also, please take the time to sign-up for the VFW Washington Weekly email newsletter. It remains the best way to stay informed of what the VFW is doing on the legislative front in Washington, D.C. To sign up for our weekly e-newsletter or for a list of the *2011 Legislative Priority Goals*, go to www.vfw.org and click on the *VFW in DC* section.

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. If you are supporting a local unit and are not participating in the Adopt-A-Unit (AAU) program, consider doing so as an excellent way to strengthen the interaction with the unit. If you are already participating with the AAU program, you must submit the AAU Activity Report once a year to keep the adoption active. The AAU application and report are available on www.vfw.org/assistance/national-military-services. 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**. It takes weeks of planning to put together an event, but only minutes to let us know.

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</u>	<u>(DAY)</u>
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</u>

BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)

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.
- **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 service members. As you connect, 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.
- **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 one 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

NEY KEYES, COMMANDER
YUCCA VALLEY POST 9431 – DEPT. OF CALIFORNIA
Group 3

MEMBER BENEFITS:

eKnowledge SAT/ACT testing preparation materials

Big discount of 75%-90% is being offered by eKnowledge on their acclaimed SAT/ACT testing products such as DVD programs, software and books. These materials help students prepare for their college entrance exams and will potentially increase confidence which can result in higher test scores, scholarships and acceptance into the college of their choice. Open to VFW members, employees, relatives and dependants. To order visit: eKnowledge.com/vfw or call (951) 256-4076.

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.

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).

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.

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: A9935000
- 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.

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!

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

SHEWMAKE, Gordon R., Past Department Adjutant/Quartermaster of Alabama, 1988-1998, All American Department Commander of Alabama, 1981-1982 and a Life Member of Selma Post 3016, Selma, Alabama, December 25, 2010.