



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 35, NO. 6

FEB. 2011

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

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>	
FEBRUARY	February 25	(Friday)
MARCH	March 25	(Friday)
APRIL	April 29	(Friday)
MAY	May 27	(Friday)
JUNE	June 30	(THURSDAY - MUST 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:

- **Dues Notices:** The February dues notice is scheduled to begin mailing on or about February 28, 2011. This will be the fourth and FINAL dues notice mailing for the 2010-2011 membership year.
- **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 will result in the loss of credit for the recruiter. In addition, membership applications submitted to National without a recruiter listed will not be changed later. Please make sure the recruiter information is complete before submitting the application. Failure to do so will 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 on 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

ELVIN BASS, COMMANDER
LA PLACE POST 3337 – DEPT. OF LOUISIANA
Group 4

MEMBER BENEFITS:

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.

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

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".

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!

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

Long Term Care:

Long-term care can protect your retirement savings and help you maintain your independence while providing you with quality-care options, both in your home or in a facility. Long-term care also provides relief for family members.

Through Pinnacle Financial Services, the VFW offers a broad selection of long-term care plans, services, underwriting and premiums to meet the needs of our members. We also extend this protection to your spouse, children, parents, in-laws and friends. To request more information, go to <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/LongTerm.htm> or call 1-800-772-6882.

Individual & Family Health Insurance:

VFW-Sponsored Insurance Programs offers *comprehensive, affordable health insurance* plans for members and their families, age 64 and younger.

- Individual Major Medical
- Individual Short Term Major Medical
- Family Major Medical
- Critical Illness
- Wide range of deductibles
- Your choice of co-insurance levels
- Co-pays for prescription medication and office visits
- A broad network of doctors and hospitals specific to your area
- Traditional PPO plans
- Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)

Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/MajorMed.htm> or call 1-800-829-8390 for a quote.

MetLife Dental Insurance:

Maximize the value from your VFW membership with Dental Insurance from MetLife. VFW has selected MetLife because of their 140+ years experience in the insurance business, extensive group benefits expertise and high-quality service. Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/Dental.html> or call 1-877-627-5897 for more information.

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/cancer.htm>.

Senior Hospital Indemnity:

Are you prepared for a personal health crisis like your own hospitalization? You have Medicare, but is it enough? Hospital Indemnity Insurance can provide for the many "extras" associated with a hospital stay that may be uncovered by Medicare -- such as private rooms, special nursing care, out-of-pocket costs or personal bills that must be paid. A few highlights of this valuable coverage for VFW members include:

All hospitalizations are covered, for sickness or injury.

Get cash for EVERY day you're in the hospital—whether it's because of an accident or illness.

DOUBLE benefits to help you fight cancer.

Skilled nursing facility care benefits in addition to hospitalization.

To find out more, request information by calling call 1-800-749-6983 or visit www.vfwinsurance.com.

Juvenile Life SecureStart®:

Guarantee that your young ones will be insured in the future...no matter what may happen to their health. For as little as 50 cents a week, you can purchase SecureStart® term life insurance for your children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces and nephews between the ages of 6 months and 17 years.

With SecureStart® your loved ones are guaranteed:

- Protection at economical rates
- Benefits that cannot be reduced
- No medical exam
- Coverage that cannot be canceled as long as premiums are paid
- The right to increase coverage later
- Fixed rates that never increase before age 25

Visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/juvenile.htm> or call 1-800-749-6983 for more information.

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

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):

Operation Uplink Reaches its 5 Millionth Call for Free Call Days!!

During the Martin Luther King Jr. Free Call Day, Operation Uplink reached a milestone with connecting our 5 millionth call since beginning the Free Call Day program on Mother's Day 2006. We want to thank everyone who has supported this great program!!

Don't forget "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" week beginning on February 14. To request virtual PINs, complete the Operation Uplink request form and email to Darcie at uplink@vfw.org. Each PIN provides 100 minutes of talk time. What a great way to thank our veterans for their service and sacrifices.

Reminder ... All NMS forms, brochures, and other supporting material are available at www.vfw.org under your member login. Once you are logged in, just click on National Military Services.

VFW STORE:

PRESIDENTS' DAY, February 21st – One more way to stay connected with your community -- sponsor a classroom and provide Presidents rulers, coloring books, and other teaching tools. Or, have a Presidents' Day event at your Post! Celebrate with red, white and blue.
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=258>

TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29167>.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS are fast approaching -- give us a call to see how we can help on special orders, i.e., gifts, shirts, jackets, etc. Make us your One-Stop Shopping source for all your VFW needs. Call 1-800-821-2606 or email scutright@vfw.org.

Check out our **CLEARANCE** items – *GET THEM WHILE THEY LAST!*
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=142>.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Veterans Service needs Your Support in 2011 – Today, more than 625,000 veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have sought care from the VA – not to mention the thousands of veterans from past wars and conflicts. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created an unprecedented demand for VFW's programs. Veterans need our help securing the entitlements they were promised by our government. Help ensure we have the resources needed to meet the increasing demand by supporting the Veterans Service Annual Campaign. Also, watch for the latest Supporter Quarterly Newsletter to arrive this month.

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!

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 partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

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 guidebook 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>.

PROGRAMS:

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating over 4.9 million volunteer hours and over \$23 million towards community service work from May 1 to October 31, 2010. The total value of our volunteers' efforts is valued at over \$126 million.

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>.

NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES. The 2011–2012 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard L. DeNoyer. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "Are You Proud of Your Country?" This information has been posted on the VFW website.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAM. This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time to outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards. For more information, see the VFW Community Activities Chairmen's Manual or contact the VFW Programs department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

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>.

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

MCGOWAN, Robert A., All American Department Commander of Delaware, 1997-98 and a Life Member of Rehoboth Beach Post 7447, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, December 26, 2010.