

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

VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING:

112th National Convention Housing officially opens March 1, 2011. Housing reservation information is 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 registration form and links to other convention related information for San Antonio, August 27-September 1, 2011.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Section 222 of the National By-Laws requires 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Just a reminder to all Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters that you will not be receiving copies of the VFW Leadership Reference Guide CDs this year. The VFW Leadership Reference Guide will be available on-line in the Online Membership System (OMS).

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>.

VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2010 – 2011 PROGRAM YEAR. Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected national winners for 2010-2011:

Elementary School level – Annette Dake, Bridge Creek Elementary School, Blanchard, Oklahoma, selected by VFW Post 3608 and Ladies Auxiliary, Blanchard, Oklahoma.

Middle School level – Bryan K. Degner, Boerne Middle School North, Boerne, Texas, selected by VFW Post 688, Boerne, Texas.

High School level – Lesley Ann Thomson, Barnegat High School, Barnegat, New Jersey, selected by VFW Post 10092, Barnegat, New Jersey.

National awards will be presented on March 7 to each teacher during the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Each of the winners will receive a \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school; and, an all-expenses paid trip. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters in March for presentation. Now is the time to begin locating exceptional teachers for your Post to nominate for next year's competition. Deadline for entries is November 1, 2011.

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>.

BUDDY POPPY:

Orders for Memorial Day (May distribution) are now being processed. Quartermasters and Buddy Poppy Chairmen are encouraged to take advantage of the enormous wave of **patriotism** and order early. You are also reminded that the full name as listed in membership and a street address expedites delivery by UPS. Please **do not** use P.O. Box numbers. [For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128](http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128).

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

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

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>

VetJobs

VetJobs (www.vetjobs.com) has thousands of current job postings and an outstanding Employment Assistance section with many helpful tips on how to find a job, write your resume and how to interview effectively. State job board information and niche job board listings make it easy to find the right job.

VetJobs, owned in part and exclusively sponsored by VFW, is available to assist all those in the military as well as transitioning military, National Guard and reservists, veterans, spouses, eligible former spouses, widows, widowers and dependents and DoD civilians.

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

Member Insurance Brochure

Download or view the Member Insurance brochure online at <http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/Join/Member%20Insurance%20Brochure.pdf>.

VFW Insurance

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

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Spring is in the Air! – There’s no better way to welcome the new season than by supporting your Department’s programs. The new VFW Tote Bag that was mailed last year in March was so well received that we are mailing it out again! When you receive your tote bag in the next few weeks, please be as generous as possible. We know these are tough economic times for all of America, but so many of our living heroes are likewise suffering. Military members, veterans, and their families from your Department are counting on you! Did you know that VFW membership dues only cover 11% of the cost to keep the programs going?

Show Your Patriotism and support your VFW Department Programs – There will be a special package sent out mid-March. Watch for this special package to arrive in your mail box! When you receive this special package, please show your support for your fellow veterans with as generous a gift as possible. Supporting this program also helps your VFW Department programs remain strong for those service members, veterans and their families who may need help.

VFW is Helping Our Heroes...Read Success Stories – Please visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork to see VFW’s grassroots success stories that are making a real difference for real people. New success stories will be posted as the VFW is out there doing its job – so check back often. If you enjoy reading these success stories and would like to receive a monthly update, please share your email with us. You can do this at www.vfw.org/vfwatwork in the upper right corner of the page where it says “Keep Up With

Veterans' Issues And What VFW Is Doing." This will allow you to receive the monthly e-newsletter as well as email updates on late breaking veterans' issues. We will not share your email with any other company or organization, and you may opt-out at any time.

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.

Department Resources – All the same great resources are still available for your Department to use and are at www.vfw.org. You need only go to there 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!

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Adopt-a-Unit: The next "Quarterly Purge Update" will be issued March 1st to remind VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to submit the required annual activity report. As Adopt-A-Unit continues to grow, these reports show great examples of troop support projects done by VFW Posts and Auxiliaries.

If you are supporting a local unit and are not participating in the Adopt-A-Unit (AAU) program, consider adopting the unit to strengthen the interaction with the unit. 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.

Don't forget that we have virtual PINs available for hospitalized veterans! 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.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

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.

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 1-800-527-0700 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.

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!

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>
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 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 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 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, Texas for the Commander and their spouse, \$500 expense stipend, and special seating at the Joint Opening ceremonies on Monday.

- **All American Program:** Please note the change in the All-American Program - Posts that have five years continuous growth in membership will be considered for All American by the Commander-in-Chief (if they have been 100% in membership and programs reporting).

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

FRANK CARROLL, COMMANDER
 EDWARD P. MADAK POST 9340 – DEPT. OF OHIO
 Group 5

ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:

SAWYER, James M., Commander, Department of Maine, 2002-03 and a Life Member of Deering Memorial Post 6859, Portland, Maine, February 24, 2011.

FARRELL, Philip “Mike”, Commander, Department of Maine, 1997-98 and a Life Member of Passamaquoddy Memorial Post 11299, Perry, Maine, February 15, 2011.

ARCAND, Jean P., Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 1997-98, Post Commander and a Life Member of Bulpitt-Moran-Noel Post 2686, Johnston, Rhode Island, February 2, 2011.

GIRARDIN, Norman L., All American Commander, Department of Maine, 1975-76 and a Life Member of Frank L. Mitchell Post 3335, Jay, Maine, September 18, 2010.

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