

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 35, NO. 8

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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>
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:

- **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 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, 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

BRUCE KOSACK, COMMANDER
 PINE GROVE POST 3432, DEPT. OF PENNSYLVANIA
 Group 6

MEMBER DUES PROCESSING:

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PAY OUT - 2012

The Cottonwood Group, a professional actuarial firm, recently completed an evaluation of the Life Membership Fund. Based on this evaluation, the Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW By-Laws,

has determined that, for the 2011 membership year, the Life Membership Fund will pay out **\$3.34** for each **Plan A, B and C** life member, **\$4.06** for each **Plan D** life member and **\$8.72** for each **Plan E** life member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in September 2011 for all life members recorded as of August 31, 2011.

In addition, **\$8.72 will be paid in January 2012** for each life member processed from September through December 2011 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please call Robert A. Crider, Director, Member Dues Processing, at National Headquarters.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

It's Never Too Late To Help – The 2011 Veterans Service Annual Campaign is still in full swing! Please help ensure we can serve veterans of all ages and campaigns, as well as our active-duty troops still fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, by sending a generous gift today. The Veterans Service Annual Campaign is one of the most important ways we keep the program strong on both the National and Department level. When you support this important program, you ensure veterans, including those still fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, receive the entitlements available from the government through your Department's Veterans Service Program.

Make Your Gift Go Twice As Far – You will soon receive a special offer to make your gift to VFW go twice as far! We received notification that an anonymous donor wants to match your donation, dollar for dollar up to \$50,000, between now and Memorial Day, May 30, 2011. This offer will arrive with a set of patriotic address labels. This is a great opportunity to help support veterans of all ages, right in your Department. Be as generous as you can and send your gift in right away to make sure it is matched!

Special Gift Arriving Soon – VFW members will soon receive a very special Deluxe Spring Card Package in the mail that includes an assortment of note cards, gift wrap and bows, and a notepad and pen. Use your note cards to send warm messages to family and friends, as well as to our troops on the front line or hospitalized veterans who have sacrificed so much. Your support of fellow veterans and service members is very important, so please watch for this special package in the mail. Remember, the VFW has many important programs that assist veterans in need throughout the year right in your own Department, and without your support these programs may suffer. Did you know that only 11% of the cost of these special programs is covered by VFW Membership Dues?

Did Your Special VFW Tote Bag Arrive? – A couple of weeks ago, we sent out a special VFW Tote Bag. We hope you received your new tote bag in good condition and are using it with pride. By carrying your tote bag, you will show your pride in the VFW and your service to this nation. We certainly hope you will also send in a generous gift to support the important programs of the VFW. Your gifts will be used to help support the programs right in your own Department.

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 – 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:

\$1,000 No-Cost Personal Accident Insurance

The member insurance department at National Headquarters receives phone calls every day from family members of VFW members who have recently passed away. Callers want to know about the insurance that is provided for free. The benefit provided is a \$1,000 no-cost accidental death and dismemberment policy. All VFW members who are in good standing are insured under this policy (the plan reduces at ages 70 and 75). Benefits are payable in the event of an accidental death or dismemberment. For more information, please call the VFW Insurance Administrator at 1-800-626-0027.

Print a duplicate certificate of the no-cost accidental death and dismemberment policy/ beneficiary form and learn more about all of the VFW sponsored insurance at www.vfwinsurance.com.

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.

VA Home Loans – A Smart Financial Tool

New Day VA is the approved lender for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Whether you are considering debt consolidation, home improvement, need to pay for major expenses or just need some extra cash, New Day VA can help you. Call to speak to an expert today at 1-800-454-1275.

Or apply online at <http://www.vfwhomeandloan.com/mortgages.html>.

VFW Moving Services

If you're one of the millions of Veteran Americans moving this year, you're eligible for a VFW benefit that is sponsored by the VFW National Headquarters. The Cartwright Companies provide the highest

quality moving services at special rates exclusively for VFW members and their families. This attractive benefit can save you \$1,000's on your move. Highlights of this program include:

Your move will be managed by the international Military, GSA, VFW and Commercial relocation service provider.

- A 10% discount on the cost of the entire household goods relocation
- A 10% discount on the cost of shipping an automobile or boat
- A 25% discount on Full Value Replacement Insurance
- A 10% discount on the first month of storage (if storage is required).

For a no obligation, free written estimate detailing all aspects of your move, call 1-866-481-8398.

Know Your Burial Benefits

As a veteran and VFW member you are entitled to specific burial benefits from the VA and Dignity Memorial®, which is the largest network of funeral homes in the United States.

BUT.....You Have to Know How to Get Them and We Can Help!

There is a lot of confusion amongst veterans about their VA burial benefits. Did you know over 60% of Veterans think the VA will pay for their funeral or cremation service? Not true. And six out of ten Veterans think the VA will pay for their burial casket. This is also not true. Learn the facts about your veteran burial benefits that can save you and your family thousands of dollars. For your FREE Veterans Planning Guide please call 1-800-300-0436 or visit www.dignityveteransvfw.com.

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 x 6830.

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>.

PROCESS TO ORDER VFW BUDDY POPPIES:

Your Post order for VFW Buddy Poppies starts with your Post Quartermaster, upon approval of the Post membership. Order the Poppies from your VFW Department Headquarters (you will need to contact the Department Headquarters for any special order form and pricing – as this information is not available from National Headquarters). Your Department Headquarters will in turn order from National Headquarters the quantity desired, and the shipment will be made according to directions from the Department order.

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>.

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.

IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME! April is the perfect month to begin contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships. The new Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy student entry forms are available at www.vfw.org/Community/Programs/ and click on the program you are interested in.

Please remember that Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are VFW programs supported by the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. It is inappropriate for the Ladies Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please e-mail svanbuskirk@vfw.org or call 816-968-1116.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>.

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Tuesday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag. This product is available at the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22874>.

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>.

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).

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

REMINDER!! All donations to NMS must be received before May 31st to qualify for All-American.

The Donor Supporter Card Program was designed to assist with the Post fundraisers to qualify for All-American. We had posts from 49 departments pick up the Donor Supporter Cards at convention last year, but to date we have only received donations from 25 departments (51%). Send in your donation today!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

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.

1800Flowers

We are pleased to partner with the VFW- Veterans of Foreign Wars, giving all members the opportunity to SAVE 15% off products with national and international delivery. Life's everyday celebrations are easy at 1-800-FLOWERS.COM®, where our wide assortment of beautiful flowers – Fresh From Our Growers or Florist Designed – plus plants, delicious gourmet snacks and treats, extraordinary gift baskets, cuddly plush pals and unique giftware they'll treasure can help you celebrate any occasion! 1-800-BASKETS.COM® truly completes your online gift shopping experience. When you need a special gift, think of us. We'd love to build a basket for you! Shop now for our new expanded gift basket collection for gourmet gift baskets filled with chocolates, wine, fruit, cookies, various gift basket towers and assorted food gifts. It's easy to see why we're different. Simply use PROMOTION CODE: VFW at check out on the web or on the telephone with one of our Gift Advisors. Visit www.1800flowers.com, www.1800baskets.com or call 1-800-356-9377.

FromYouFlowers

Choose from over 2,000 exquisite gift items like our bouquet of roses, voted as a CBS Morning Show Best Value, or select any of our florist designed arrangements, all available nationwide for same day delivery. Your **20%** Discount is also valid on our entire NEW line of award winning cookies, cakes, and brownies, including 1800flowers.com trademarked items such as their Birthday Cake and Margarita Bouquets. (Good Housekeeping Magazine's 10 Best Mail-order Goodies for Giving or Serving). As the leader in the industry on customer service standards we have confidence your order will always be perfect so we back it with a 100% product and service guarantee. Make someone smile today—send Flowers!!!! **SAVE 20%** on all regularly priced floral and gift items with From You Flowers. Simply visit www.fromyouflowers.com/vfw or call (800) 838-8853 and mention **code 81Y**. *We also deliver to over 140 Countries!*

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.

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.

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 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.

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:

DI PIETRO, Fredrick, Commander, Department of New Jersey, 1993-94 and a Life Member of Penns Grove Memorial Post 8840, Penns Grove, New Jersey, March 23, 2011.

VAN ALLEN, George T., All American Commander, Department of New Jersey, 1978-79 and a Life Member of Star Landing Pvt. Nicholas Minue Memorial Post 2314, Carteret, New Jersey, February 23, 2011.

BOYLE, Bernard J., All American Commander, Department of Wisconsin, 1990-91 and a Life Member of Anderson-Murphy Post 2823, Burlington, Wisconsin, February 3, 2011.

TANK, JR., Max M., Commander, Department of Wisconsin, 1984-85 and a Life Member of Runge-Graham Post 1691, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, November 22, 2010.

- 30 -