

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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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 opened March 1 and response has been outstanding! Many department blocks are already sold out or are very close to being sold out at this time. You are encouraged to make your reservation NOW – do not delay! We will work with hotels to secure additional rooms based on our needs and the hotel's availability. The July 19 housing reservation deadline is **not** a guarantee there will be rooms available in your department block. We will keep VFW departments updated on the housing situation.

The (4) four hotels selected for the 112th National Convention (all located downtown San Antonio) are: Grand Hyatt (VFW Headquarters hotel) \$135 rate (single/double) \$155 (triple), \$175 (quad); Marriott Riverwalk (Ladies Auxiliary Headquarters hotel) \$147 rate (single/double) \$175 (triple/quad); Marriott Rivercenter - \$147 rate (single/double) \$175 (triple/quad); Hyatt Regency San Antonio -\$135 rate (single/double) \$155 (triple) \$175 (quad). For VFW department housing assignments, refer to the list located on the convention website.

Current tax rate is 16.75% and is subject to change. Reservations for these hotels can be made via the Internet, fax, phone or mail. Visit the VFW website for a housing form, convention registration form or, for more information, at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). At the website home page, scroll down on the right hand side and click on the convention spiff to access the convention web page for information or contact your local VFW Post, Department or National Headquarters.

**Fax:** Completed housing forms can be faxed to 210-207-6702. *Do not mail forms after faxing.*

**Mail:** Mail completed housing forms to VFW Housing Bureau, 203 S. St. Mary's, Suite 200, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

**Phone:** You may make reservations via phone by calling 210-207-6734, Monday-Friday, 8:00a-5p (central time).

Room deposits will be accepted by form of a check (made payable to **VFW Housing Bureau**) in the amount of \$150 or guaranteed with a valid credit card. Please **DO NOT** go to hotel websites to make room reservation. VFW has negotiated special convention rates, which are not available through the individual hotel websites.

**RV/CAMPING:** To find a list of nearby RV parks, go to the VFW website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). At the homepage, scroll down on the right-hand side and click on the convention spiff to access the convention webpage and to access additional convention information.

**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. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration or you may register on-line by going to [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

**CONVENTION BANQUET:** There will be no convention banquet in San Antonio.

**ALL CONFERENCE RECEPTION:** There will be no All Conference Reception in San Antonio.

**PROGRAM OF EVENTS:** Major events for the 112th VFW National Convention, August 27 – September 1, 2011, are **tentatively** scheduled as follows:

### **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

**VFW 112th National Convention  
San Antonio, Texas  
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center  
August 27-September 1, 2011**

*All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted.*

*Times for various functions are subject to change.*

*Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change*

#### **Saturday, August 27, 2011**

7:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW/Registration/Exhibits
8:00 a.m.	National Veterans Service Advisory Committee
10:30 a.m.	Budget and Finance Committee
12:00 p.m.	Vander Clute Memorial Ride - Check Presentation
2:00 p.m.	National Council of Administration Meeting
5:00 p.m.	Catholic Mass
6:00 p.m.	National Veterans Service Sub Committee

#### **Sunday, August 28, 2011**

7:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	VFW Health Fair
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	VFW Registration/Exhibits
7:00 a.m.	Catholic Mass
7:00 a.m.	Protestant Service
8:30 a.m.	Annual Memorial Service
10:30 a.m.	Eastern Conference Caucus
10:30 a.m.	Southern Conference Caucus
10:30 a.m.	Big Ten Conference Caucus
10:30 a.m.	Western Conference Caucus
4:30 p.m.	Current Conflicts Workshop

#### **Committee Meetings:**

1:45 p.m.	Resolutions Committees ( <i>General Session Hall</i> )
2:00 p.m.	National By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual
2:00 p.m.	National Military Services

### **Resolutions Committees:**

2:00 p.m. Finance and Internal Organization (200 series)  
2:00 p.m. General Resolutions (300 Series)  
2:00 p.m. National Security and Foreign Affairs (400 series)  
Sub Committee – POW/MIA

### **Sunday, August 28, 2011 (cont.)**

2:00 p.m. National Veterans Service Resolutions (600 series)  
Sub-committee – Medical  
Sub-committee – Employment  
Sub-committee – Other Benefits

### **Monday, August 29, 2011**

7:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. VFW Health Fair  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Field Competition  
8:00 a.m. Joint Opening Session  
*(Business session will resume after lunch break)*  
12:30 p.m. National Outstanding Community Service  
Post Reception  
3p-5p Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans  
3p-5p Women Veterans  
5p-6p Iraq/Afghanistan & Women Veterans

### **Tuesday, August 30, 2011**

7:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. VFW Health Fair  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits  
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Field Competition  
8:00 a.m. VFW Business Session  
1:00 p.m. Programs Workshop: *The Successful Post*  
1:00 p.m. Chaplains Workshop  
1:00 p.m. Membership  
1:00 p.m. National Military Services Workshop  
1:30 p.m. Communications & Public Affairs Workshop:  
*VFW Social Networking Basics*  
2:00 p.m. VFW/VA Health Care Benefits Forum  
2:00 p.m. VA Overview of Research and Development: *Diabetes  
and Aging*  
2:00 p.m. VFW Scouting  
6:30 p. m. Patriotic Rally

### **Wednesday, August 31, 2011**

7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. VFW Health Fair  
7:00 a.m. Foundation Workshop:  
*Grants & Financial Assistance*  
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. VFW Registration/Exhibits  
8:00 a.m. Business Session /Nomination of Officers  
1:00 p.m. VFW National Home Workshop

## Thursday, September 1, 2011

8:00 a.m.	Business Session: Election/Installation of National Officers National Council of Administration Meeting <i>(Following business session)</i>
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Commander-in-Chief and National President's Reception

### ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

Attention Post Commanders and Quartermasters: the 2011-2012 Commander's Leadership Reference Guide is now available in the Online Membership System (OMS). If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Jones at (816) 756-3390, ext. 133 or via e-mail at [kjones@vfw.org](mailto:kjones@vfw.org).

### QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS

#### **Long-Term Care Insurance**

Long-term care can protect your retirement savings and help you maintain your independence while providing you with quality-care options either 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. For more information, call 1-800-772-6882 or visit our website at <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/LongTerm.htm>

#### **Senior Hospital Indemnity Plan**

Are you prepared for a personal health crisis like your own hospitalization? You have Medicare, *but is that 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

Receive free information. Call 1-800-749-6983 or visit <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/SrHIP.htm>

#### **VetJobs**

VetJobs ([www.vetjobs.com](http://www.vetjobs.com)) is the VFW sponsored internet job board. Over the last 12 years VetJobs has been recognized as the leading military job board by WEDDLE's, Workforce Management, BusinessWeek and AOL. VetJobs has tens of thousands of current job postings nationwide and an Employment Assistance section that provides guidance and assistance to those in the job market,

including: helpful tips on how to find a job, write a resume and how to interview effectively. State job board information and niche job board listings make it easy to find the right job.

VetJobs is available to assist transitioning military, National Guard and Reservists, veterans, spouses, eligible former spouses, widows, widowers and dependents and DoD civilians.

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

### **NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):**

If you would like to order the 2011-2012 Operation Uplink lapel pins (50 at \$2.00 each), please email [lferguson@vfw.org](mailto:lferguson@vfw.org) by **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. These are great for fundraising for your Post!! We need at least 1,000 reserved to order the pins.

The NMS Recognition Certificates were mailed out in May to all VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Departments to be handed out at the Department Conventions in June. Over 2,300 certificates of appreciation were mailed out.

Thank you to everyone who supported our military and made this a great year for National Military Services!!

### **VFW STORE:**

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup> and INDEPENDENCE DAY, July 4<sup>th</sup>** - Now is a good time to assess your flag needs and replace worn flags <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>

**FLAG ETIQUETTE** <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22899> Great to hand out at community events.

**OFFICER PINS** <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29504> We have many new Officer Pins and more on the way!

**BBQ** in style. Check out our new Grill Set <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29671>

**IF YOU DON'T SEE WHAT YOU NEED** in the catalog or online, call or email Sonja Cutright, 816.968.1161, [scutright@vfw.org](mailto:scutright@vfw.org) If it's out there, most likely we can get it at a good price. Make us your **One-Stop Shopping** source for all your VFW needs and keep the money in the VFW.

### **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Please remember VFW depends on your donations which cover nearly 87% of the expenses for all VFWs life changing programs.**

**A Quick Note** – Several weeks ago we sent you a variety of greeting cards along with some gift wrap, ribbons and a VFW ink pen. We hope you like them and have had a chance to use them. When you do, we hope you remember all the veterans you are helping with your support of VFW. With Flag Day coming on June 14, and Independence Day just around the corner, please remember to fly the United States flag. It shows fellow veterans and our current military families that you remember them and support them. You may soon receive a reminder in the mail about the card assortment and gift wrap, and we wanted to let you know that it is not too late to show your support. If you already made a donation and our letters crossed in the mail, please know that your support is much appreciated and is helping veterans, service members and their families right in your own VFW Department.

**America's Heroes – Then and Now** – I hope you received your America's Heroes Notepad and Labels we sent a couple of weeks ago. Like the heroes in those pictures, we salute all those who have fought for

our freedom and those still fighting today. Please remember that every day is a great day to show your patriotism and fly your United States flag in support of all of America's Heroes. A list of dates to display your U.S. flag is on the back of your label sheet that accompanied your notepad. You can also visit [www.VFWStore.org](http://www.VFWStore.org) for all your flag needs. Your support of these programs will directly help your VFW Department keep the programs available to veterans in your own state.

**New Thank You Gift Arriving in June** – VFW is mailing new patriotic thank you gifts this month to some of our members. Watch your mail later this month for these new gifts. Please respond quickly once you receive this special gift. Your VFW Department is counting on you to show your support of the vital programs available to the veterans, service members and their families, right there in your state.

**National Military Appreciation Month** – Last month was National Military Appreciation Month. Did your Post get involved with the community to commemorate any of the special days in May? Did anyone cover the event? Please share your story with us by emailing to [success@vfw.org](mailto:success@vfw.org). Shout your good works from the rooftops – with “VFW at Work”!

**Have you heard about VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – Would you like to support VFW's life changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? VFW has developed a planned giving program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) 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 joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at [partners@vfw.org](mailto:partners@vfw.org) with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of VFW's online community, visit [www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom](http://www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom) to sign up. Members of this special online community will receive a monthly e-newsletter with new grassroots stories about VFW out in the communities assisting veterans in need, educating the youth, and assisting military families across the nation and overseas. These stories can also be found by visiting [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork). Check back often to see newly posted stories! Also, as a member of VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special e-mails with breaking VFW news, and special opportunities to help VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families.

**Department Resources** – All the same great resources are still available for your Department to use – now found at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). You need only go to [www.vfw.org](http://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!

### **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:**

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>DEADLINE DATE</u></b>	<b><u>(DAY)</u></b>
JUNE	June 30	<b><u>(THURSDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)</u></b>

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.
- **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

**DANIEL STONER, COMMANDER**  
MANNHEIMER POST 9534, DEPT. OF EUROPE  
Group 7

## 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](http://www.lifelock.com) or call 1-800-LIFELOCK (543-3562). Use **promo code "VFW"**.

### Veterans Care Plus (VCP)

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

### USAA Banking and Credit Card

USAA provides insurance, banking, investment and retirement products and services to 8 million members of the U.S. military and their families. Known for its legendary commitment to its members, USAA is consistently recognized for outstanding service, employee well-being and financial strength. USAA membership is open to all who are serving or have honorably served our nation in the U.S. military – and their families. For more information about USAA, or to learn more about membership, call 1-800-274-8839 or visit [www.usaa.com/vfw](http://www.usaa.com/vfw).

### 1-800-Flowers/1-800-Baskets

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. 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](http://www.1800flowers.com), [www.1800baskets.com](http://www.1800baskets.com) or call 1-800-356-9377.

### 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](http://www.masaassist.com/vfw). Don't forget to mention you are a VFW member.

### FromYouFlowers

Choose from over 2,000 exquisite gift items like our bouquet of roses or select any of our florist designed arrangements, all available nationwide for same day delivery. 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](http://www.fromyouflowers.com/vfw) or call 1-800-838-8853 and mention **code 81Y**. *We also deliver to over 140 Countries!*

### 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**

### 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**.

## **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: [www.eknowledge.com/vfw](http://www.eknowledge.com/vfw) or call 1-951-256-4076

## **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. To find out more, call 1-866-869-6686 or visit [www.sprint.com/vfw](http://www.sprint.com/vfw).

## **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 1-800-325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

## **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>.

**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>.

**ALERT – CUTTING UP THE U.S. FLAG.** It has recently come to our attention that some erroneous traditions are becoming more commonplace regarding U.S. Flags that are no longer usable. Many well-meaning individuals have cut up soiled or worn Flags, sometimes cutting out stars and mailing them to our troops. Although this is a thoughtful gesture and appears on the Internet in several places, it is in fact, an inappropriate act and should not be conducted by any VFW Post or Auxiliary.

In August, 2000, at the VFW 101st National Convention, delegates passed a resolution establishing a U.S. Flag disposal program by fire for Posts to conduct, privately or publicly as follows:

- 1) The Flag should be folded in its customary manner. (See VFW Ritual Book)
- 2) It is important that the fire be sizeable and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the Flag.
- 3) Place the Flag on the fire.
- 4) The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the Flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
- 5) After the Flag is completely consumed, the fire should be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.
- 6) Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

The resolution conforms to the intent and letter of the U.S. Code and the Federal Flag Code.

This is the only acceptable way of handling U.S. Flags that are no longer fit to be flown. No other handling of a retired Flag is considered acceptable.

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11<sup>th</sup> is designated as "Patriot Day." The President requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) and a moment of silence observed in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States.

For flags and other patriotic items, click here

<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>

VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS. Departments were asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than February 1, 2011. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2010-2011 PROGRAM YEAR. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Based on the nominees submitted by November 1st, local VFW posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners' names to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by December 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest. This is part of the 2010-2011 All American Program.

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 a VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Conference.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at [www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF](http://www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF) or ordered through [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or by calling 1-800-821-2606 and asking for item #4450.

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.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE – COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING.

Recognizing that VFW and Ladies Auxiliary programs and chairmanships do not always coincide, we must find a way to establish an accurate accounting of the efforts and dollars expended by both organizations. Therefore, the following will apply for the 2011-2012 program year:

All VFW Post chairman will report to their respective Department Chairman at least twice yearly in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department Chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office in June and December. The VFW Post chairmen's report should include whether or not their Ladies Auxiliary participated.

The various Ladies Auxiliary chairmen will report to their Department chairmen and District chairmen (where applicable). Each Ladies Auxiliary Department Chairman will consolidate these reports and provide a list of the number of participants, hours and money expended to the VFW Department Community Service Chairman. This information will be added to the VFW reports and submitted to the VFW Programs National Office.

**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 2010 – 2011 VFW Community Service Chairmen's Guide or contact the VFW Community Service department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form. Certificates and other awards available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22826>

**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 19 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 28 (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:**

Please remember that Buddy Poppies are not just for Veterans Day or Memorial Day; they are also very appropriate for distributing throughout the year at various events. The proceeds continue to help our veterans and their families in addition to local charitable causes. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to: <http://www.vfwstore.org>

It is clear that the assembly portion of the Buddy Poppy Program has experienced some difficult transitions and those continue. Changes in VA rules regarding assemblers, declining production from aging facilities (assemblers), and slow start-up of new facilities has resulted in a struggle to fulfill orders. Although new facilities are being brought on line and procedural changes are starting to improve the situation, we again ask for your patience as we get back to acceptable levels. As we have reviewed the problems, we have discovered two areas that you can help us with. First, when you place an order, please provide a specific and reasonable delivery date. The majority of your orders simply says, "ASAP" or leaves the delivery date box empty. In those cases, we have no choice but to process

them in the order they are received. If you provide a specific date, we will endeavor to meet that deadline. However, please order your poppies a minimum of 8-12 weeks ahead of when you need them.

**ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

WIGGINS, Charles E., Commander, Department of Louisiana, 1997-98, Post Quartermaster and a Life Member of Freddie John Falgout Post 3665, Raceland, Louisiana, May 18, 2011.

WITCHER, Robert P., All American Commander, Department of Illinois, 1967-68, All American District Commander, 1963-64 and a Life Member of Millstadt Post 7980, Millstadt, Illinois, May 12, 2011.

MC CLENAHAN, James H., All American Commander, Department of Illinois, 1969-70 and a Life Member of Wood River Post 2859, Wood River, Illinois, December 30, 2010.

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