

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



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

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 35, NO. 11

JUL. 2011

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

### MEMBERSHIP:

**Dues Notices** - 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 2011-2012 YEAR:

<i><u>MONTH</u></i>	<i><u>DEADLINE DATE (DAY)</u></i>
JULY	July 29 (Friday)
AUGUST	August 26 (Friday)
SEPTEMBER	September 30 (Friday)
OCTOBER	October 28 (Friday)
NOVEMBER	November 25 (Friday)
DECEMBER	December 30 (Friday)
JANUARY	January 27 (Friday)
FEBRUARY	February 24 (Friday)
MARCH	March 30 (Friday)
APRIL	April 27 (Friday)
MAY	May 25 (Friday)
JUNE	June 29 ( <b><u>FRIDAY - MUST BE</u></b> )

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

### ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.
- **National Membership Program:** The 2011-2012 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference guide. This can be viewed online via E-Membership.
- **All American Awards:** Any All American Commander who attends the National Convention will have their awards presented at the Joint Opening session. It is imperative that all

information requests sent to the winners be returned by the deadline noted in their letters. Failure to do so will result in non-presentation of their awards. For those who are not attending the Convention, the awards will be mailed to their respective Department headquarters for presentation. In addition, awards for the winning Posts will be mailed to the Department for presentation.

- **Legacy Life Membership:** Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. This program offers three levels of membership each offering its own packages of prestigious benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>	<i>Annual Payouts (Natl., Dept. &amp; Post):</i>
Gold - \$1200	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00
Bronze - \$400	\$6.00

What Legacy will you leave?

Your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that all cards are received in a timely fashion will be greatly appreciated.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 100% DEPARTMENTS**

ALASKA  
ARIZONA  
EUROPE  
DELAWARE  
GEORGIA  
HAWAII  
IDAHO  
MONTANA  
NEVADA  
NEW MEXICO  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
TENNESSEE  
WYOMING

**DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Did you receive your special new gift in June?** – Last month we mailed several new gifts to a large number of VFW members as a thank you for all of your support. You may have received a personalized leatherette pocket planner, an address book, or a patriotic music CD. We are always looking for new ways to show our members and supporters our appreciation for all the support you give. We must always be here to support our fellow veterans from past wars as well as our current military and their families. 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.

**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 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!

## **QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:**

### **VFW Real Estate & Mortgage Services**

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

### **VFW Sponsored Funeral Program**

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

In addition to expertise, Dignity® providers support veterans through programs such as the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall and the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program. Special pricing

and free Veterans Planning guides are offered to VFW members. For more information or to request your Veterans Planning Guide, visit [www.DignityVeteransVFW.com](http://www.DignityVeteransVFW.com).

## **VFW Insurance**

For information about various insurance plans sponsored by VFW National, please visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com).

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

Just a reminder to all Department and Post Commanders that copies of National By-Law, Manual of Procedure and Ritual amendments will not be mailed to each Post as in years past, but will be available in the Online Membership System (OMS) beginning in mid-August. More details to follow.

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).

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

Next month is the National Convention in San Antonio. Stop by the NMS booth to check out our fundraising challenge between the five service branches and the Ladies Auxiliary!!

The National Military Services Committee meeting will be held on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-3 pm. Our workshop will be on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm, and is open to the public. The workshop will begin with a 1:00 check presentation for NMS or any of the three programs. Please contact Linda Ferguson at 816-968-1102 or email [lferguson@vfw.org](mailto:lferguson@vfw.org) by July 31<sup>st</sup>, if you will be presenting a check. We hope to see you in beautiful San Antonio!!

## **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>.

**VFW PROGRAMS WORKSHOP.** During the National Convention in San Antonio, to be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, there will be a workshop "The Successful Post" on Tuesday, August 30, at 1:00 pm (please check Convention booklet for room assignment).

**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>.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPTEMBER 16.** Posts should conduct an appropriate ceremony. Information on conducting a ceremony can be found in the current VFW Manual of Procedure. For POW/MIA merchandise, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>.

**VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 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 the National Convention.

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), 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.

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 21, (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/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>.

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.

### **VFW Store:**

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED from the hot summer sun <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29458>. Get yours today for Post barbeques, membership recruiting drives, picnics, fundraisers, etc.

**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>.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

### **USAA Credit Card & Banking, Investments, and Financial Planning**

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).

### **Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels**

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to **20% off** the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. Give agent special discount **ID number 62615** at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels. Call 1-877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

### **LifeLock – Identity Theft Protection**

Protect Your Identity with LifeLock – the VFW-sponsored program that guards against identity theft. Last year, identity theft increased 22% for a five-year high of nearly 10 million victims at a cost of \$48 million. That's an identity stolen every three seconds. But you don't have to be next. VFW has partnered with LifeLock to provide you a special savings on LifeLock's industry-leading identity theft protection service. Don't wait until it's too late. Enroll today and you'll receive a limited-time discount of 10% of the regular membership price. Help protect yourself now. Visit [www.lifelock.com](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.

### **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.

### **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**

### **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!

### **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**.

### **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!

### **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

LAWSON, Jefferson D., All American Commander, Department of Kansas, 2003-04, All American District Commander, 1988-89 and a Life Member of Phillip Billard Post 1650, Topeka, Kansas, June 5, 2011.

JONES, Merritt H., All American Commander, Department of Maine, 1965-66 and a Life Member of Boardman-Ellis Post 6977, York Beach, Maine, May 31, 2011.

CHAMPAGNE, Renie J., All American Commander, Department of California, 1985-86, Post Quartermaster and a Life Member of Old Glory Post 8750, Daly City, California, May 28, 2011.