

## Membership

### NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERSHIP GRANT INITIATIVE FOR VFW POSTS

As of Jan. 1, 2022, every VFW Post that signs up and submits full membership dues\* for each member will receive a grant based on the type of membership submitted while funds are available.

Member Type	Rebate Amount
New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life with full Life member payment.	\$30.00
New to the VFW Life member and/or any **Reinstated annual to Life Installment Payment	\$20.00
New to the VFW Annual member	\$20.00
**Reinstated Annual member	\$10.00

- Full membership dues include the per capita for National, Department and the Post.
- Reinstated definition - Anyone that has been a member before, and their dues have been expired for two years and one day or more is classified as a Reinstated member.
- Members submitted prior to Jan. 1 are not eligible for this program.
- Current Annual members defined as any member whose dues have not been expired more than two years are not eligible for the grant.
- Members at Large are not part of this program.

### 2022 KANSAS CITY SPREE

The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100 percent membership by April 1, 2022, along with their guest will each be awarded:

- Round-trip airfare to Kansas City, MO, from the airport nearest the awardee’s home.
- A fun-filled weekend (May 19-22, 2022) that may include but is not limited to touring, shopping and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.

### DEPARTMENT “100 PERCENT” INCENTIVE

Any Department that attains 100% in membership by close of business on March 31, 2022, will be entered into a random drawing. The Commander (plus guest) and the Quartermaster (plus guest) for the Department that is selected will each receive:

- **\$2,500 voucher through Veterans Travel Services (VTS) applied towards airfare, accommodations and transportation for a trip of their own choice.**

## **POST DEVELOPMENT**

Congratulations to Department of Oregon instituting VFW Post 12211, Hood River Post! It has been a slow recovery for most Departments establishing new Posts since the COVID pandemic, but efforts have produced four new VFW Posts this year! For more tips on how to institute a new Post, check out our New Post Development & Revitalization Manual, which can be viewed/downloaded from [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), under Membership Retention & Training. To understand more, give me a call, Corey Hunt, 816.968.2788 to discuss ways you can energize your membership. We have many resources for you including training videos and presentations on topics which are designed to help you grow membership and retain those members.

## **NEW POST DEVELOPMENT & POST REVITALIZATION DEPARTMENT AWARD**

For each new Post, the Department will receive two entries into a drawing, and one entry for increasing the membership of a Post of 50 members or less to over 50 members by July 1, 2022. The Department selected will receive:

- **\$1,000 paid directly to Department.**

For details on this and all other All-American membership incentives, view the Commander-in-Chief's National Membership Program at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under *Membership Recruiting & Retention*.

For any questions or further information, please contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 1.888.564.6839.

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on April 11, 2022, at 2 PM, CDT, Topic: **TBD**.

## **CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!**

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to view the latest membership news, Post Shout-Outs and important resource information throughout the year - [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/).

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP THREE RECRUITERS!**

Top Three Recruiters (as of 3.28.22):

**Joseph T. Allen – 35**  
VFW Post 3285, Dept. of MD

**Larry M. Gerlt – 247**  
VFW Post 2704, Dept. of NE

**Michael J. Eason – 137**  
VFW Post 9376, Dept. of MD

## **LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

CHECK OUT OUR LEGACY LIFE VIDEO! Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), click on JOIN, and scroll down to Legacy Life Membership and then click on the video on the right. This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life members. There are three levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

### **Enrollment Cost:**

### **Annual Payouts:**

<b><u>Levels</u></b>		<b><u>Posts</u></b>	<b><u>Departments</u></b>	<b><u>National</u></b>
Gold-	\$1,200.00	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
Silver-	\$800.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Bronze-	\$400.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00

*What will your Legacy be?*

## VFW Foundation

### **VFW Foundation**

In honor of Women’s History month, Comcast NBC Universal made a \$5K donation to support a Buy One Get One (BOGO) year free women membership recruitment initiative. The application can be found at [vfw.org/Join](http://vfw.org/Join). The BOGO offer is **only** available to brand new members filling out the online application, and part of the application is indicating their gender. The new member will have to make a payment to pay for the first year upfront, but they will get two years of membership. Please note this is on a first come, first serve basis (as of March 15, 2022, there were 50 total submissions, 45 approved, 5 rejected). Any questions can be directed to Matthew Nute in Membership at 1.888.JOIN.VFW (888.564.6839).

VFW Foundation was nominated by VFW Lifetime member Jim Wood, for the myWalgreens Donation Program, to be one of three nonprofits featured nationally in over half of their 200+ markets launched March 1, 2022, for 90 days. Walgreens has partnered with in/PACT and The GoodCoin Foundation (“GCF”) to help implement the program across the country (see announcement [here!](#)). Members of the myWalgreens loyalty program will be able to earn and donate Walgreens Cash rewards to local nonprofits that share Walgreens’ values. This program will be available through the Walgreens mobile app and online at [Walgreens.com](http://Walgreens.com).

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is excited to announce that it is teaming up with TopCoat® Products to bring their top-of-the-line automotive detailing products to VFW members. The company offers a special VFW Members-Only 20% Discount on a uniquely crafted [VFW Starter Kit](#). TopCoat also supports the VFW Unmet Needs program through a donation program at checkout in their online store.

Contact: Richard Freiburghouse, Manager, at [rfreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:rfreiburghouse@vfw.org)

## Development

**Voice of Democracy Grand Prize Winner To Be Announced** - Young people all across the nation recorded audio essays on the theme “*America: Where Do We Go From Here?*” for the Voice of Democracy competition. One winner from each state has been chosen and now qualifies for the grand prize — a \$30,000

scholarship! Help us celebrate the next generation of proud Americans as they compete for more than \$1.7 million total in scholarships and incentives. The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) will be announcing the grand-prize winner on April 7, 2022, at 7 p.m., CDT, live on Facebook. [RSVP to the event](#). Thank you for supporting these patriotic teens!

**VFW Special Edition VFW Birthday Cards** – Last month the VFW mailed the 2022 Birthday Card Collection and other gifts in recognition of your commitment to the VFW – and to struggling veterans of all generations. Enclosed in that package was a special Thank You card for a veteran or service member. Please sign and return it right away. We will deliver your signed Thank You card to one of America’s service members or hospitalized veterans in time for Independence Day, this July 4th. It means so much to them to know their fellow veterans remember and care.

The VFW wants to ensure when these newest veterans – and veterans from all wars and conflicts – turn to us for assistance, we have the programs available for them. Please send a donation in honor of your fellow veterans who now face a long road to recovery from injuries sustained in battle. Your gift will mean that these programs stay available and strong right in your Department.

**Free Estate Planning Resources From the VFW** – Most people know the importance of a will or estate plan. But did you know only 44% of adults ages 55+ and only half that for adults ages 35-54 have one in place! So, the VFW is supplying a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at [vfw.org/PlannedGiving](http://vfw.org/PlannedGiving). Once you have made sure your family and loved ones are taken care of, we invite you to consider a gift to the VFW in your will. It is simple and takes only a few words to provide support for future generations of veterans. Learn more by contacting the VFW Planned Giving Office at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org).

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic would like you to join with him in supporting the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families and reduce the amount of mail you receive. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate the fundraising 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. Once you join the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism, you will only receive the Quarterly Supporter newsletters to keep you informed of the many efforts your monthly gifts are making possible, and a Year-End Tax Receipt mailed by the end of January. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact Donor Services in the VFW Development Department at 1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483) 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 the VFW’s online community, please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and look for the gold banner that says “**Find Out What’s Happening**” to sign up. As a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families. You may also visit [vfw.org/VFWatWork](http://vfw.org/VFWatWork) and click on “**Read VFW success stories**” to learn how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. Check back often to see newly posted stories!

**Department Resources** – Many great resources are available for your Department to use in promoting fundraising programs. These resources are available at [heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWTools). The latest fundraising program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. Download ad slicks, ready-to-use articles and other items for your Department publications and/or website.

Recent mailings and mail schedules are also posted on a regular basis. Use the tools found on the VFW Department Resources Page to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

## VFW Communications

### 2022 Virtual Parade of Winners

- Remember to mark your calendars for the VFW's Voice of Democracy Virtual Parade of Winners, streaming live on Facebook, April 7 at 7 p.m. CDT.

Be sure to [visit the VFW Facebook page, select the Virtual Parade of Winner event, tap "interested," then "going" to ensure you stay up-to-date and receive all event notifications and reminders.](#)

### "Salute to the Heroes" with John Rich

- Keep your schedule open on Friday, May 6 from 6 – 7 p.m. CDT for "Salute to the Heroes" with VFW National Commander Fritz Mihelcic and country music star John Rich – streaming LIVE from the [Redneck Riviera YouTube channel!](#)

### Donate Your myWalgreens Cash Rewards to the VFW

- We're participating in the myWalgreens donation program! You can donate your myWalgreens cash rewards to Veterans of Foreign Wars thru May 31, 2022.

To learn more about the myWalgreens program visit [walgreens.com/mywalgreens](https://www.walgreens.com/mywalgreens).

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

The VFW National Headquarters has a new Legacy Citation of Merit available. Order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our Service Members Killed In Action. Recognize, celebrate, and honor them with your ost, auxiliary, and Gold Star Families. More information will be following in a separate email.

As we plan for the **2022 National Convention in Kansas City**, we want to remind all Veterans & Military Support Chairs that there will be a new design for the **Veterans & Military Support** lapel pin for **2022-23!** Chairs will be able to pre-order their pins to be picked up at convention again this year. Request forms will be provided in April 2022.

All VMS Chairs should have received the **new VMS Newsletter** that was sent out **Feb. 2022**. All VMS Chair information is now located at the link below.

[Access the Veterans & Military Support Program Chairman Tools webpage now](#)

Please use the link above for all VMS programs and donations. We no longer accept email or faxed requests/reports.

For Posts and Departments to qualify for All-American, a **minimum of \$100** must be donated to **Veterans & Military Support** by **June 30, 2022**. You may use the direct link below or the VMS Donation Link on the



new webpage. **Do not use the red donate link in the upper righthand corner.** This is the general donation link.

**VMS Online Donation:** [heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1](https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1)

## VFW 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, Space Force and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag](https://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag).

**2022 VIRTUAL VOICE OF DEMOCRACY – PARADE OF WINNERS.** The Parade of Winners awards ceremony will be on Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m. The ceremony will be streamed live on the VFW Facebook page, [facebook.com/events/634012827708404](https://facebook.com/events/634012827708404).

**NOTE: SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.** The National Teacher Award judging has been completed and the winner will be announced during the Virtual Voice of Democracy-Parade of Winners awards ceremony on Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m.

**ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD.** Military Assistance Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much in grant assistance that has been received from National HQs to supplement the Unmet Needs financial grants and VFW Sport Clips Help-A-Hero scholarship statistics. The information charts reside on the KPI tools section.

Please encourage Posts to read the 2021-22 Membership program. Many Posts don't understand they need to sign up five new Action Corps subscribers, create a Facebook page, two separate partnering events along with a 10% increase in Community Service Impact from last year. They must submit reports through the dashboard to gain credit.

**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 and Citizenship Education Chairmen's Manual or contact Tammy at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**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 [vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags](https://vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags).

**VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM.** This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education Chairman's Manual.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact the VFW Programs Office at 816.968.1155 or email [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org).

**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.

**“UPDATED” POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Under previous Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 16, 1997) it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 116-67 (Feb. 21, 2020), it is required that the POW/MIA flag be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP237).

**IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES.** The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot’s Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## VFW Member Benefits

**The average cost of a 3-day hospital stay is around \$30,000<sup>1</sup>**

High medical costs could hit your retirement nest egg or put off that great vacation you’ve been planning. Even the costs for a brief hospital stay can add unwanted stress to an already stressful situation.

However, with the VFW Hospital HELP Plan, administered by AGIA, you can prevent some of that financial stress. This coverage accrues cash benefits and more during covered hospital stays:

- Money back in your wallet if you are sick or hurt and end up in the hospital.
- Added protection to give you and your family an extra stream of cash benefits.
- Coverage that is not tied to your medical insurance.
- Payment regardless of any other health plan.

Plus, benefit payments are sent directly to you, to be spent as you’d like. [Get coverage today.](#)

## “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppy

**“BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> POPPY CAMPAIGN.** Although we emphasize Buddy Poppies on Veterans Day and Memorial Day, it is important to realize that the distribution of Buddy Poppies should be a year-round exercise. Each time a Post participates in an activity where the public will be present, Buddy Poppies should be present as a fundraising tool and simply to recognize our fallen comrades. Where the VFW appears, Buddy Poppies should be a constant reminder that we will never forget those who have perished in the name of liberty. Just as “They Gave, Will You?” is a year-round thing, so should the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies.

Remember that your poppies should be ordered a minimum of 8 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required, do not use “ASAP.”

**BUDDY POPPY UPDATE:** National Headquarters conducted a review of the Buddy Poppy policy and procedures and implemented the following changes effective May 20, 2021:

- 1) If you do not receive your order within 8 weeks of placing it with your Department, please contact National Headquarters to report that you have not received the order.
- 2) If you do not report a missing order 3 months after the 8-week processing time, the order will NOT be replaced free of charge and you will have to resubmit your order.

Miscellaneous items (coin cans, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at [vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/buddypoppy) or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that Post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the Post general fund.

Contact information: [BuddyPoppy@vfw.org](mailto:BuddyPoppy@vfw.org) or 816.756.3390, ext. 6722 for any questions or concerns.

**NATIONAL “BUDDY”<sup>®</sup> POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST.** The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 16, until noon, Monday, July 18, 2022. Winning displays will be identified with appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning and announced later on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by Convention center personnel during the disassembly of the hall.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. For Posts currently in their 100th year anniversary, they can order any color and as many as they need. The anniversary poppies are approximately three times as expensive for us to produce, but because of the small quantities we deal in, we don’t pass those costs on to the Posts. Please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out, unless you are currently in your 100th year. These are ordered through the Department and processed the same as the red poppies. Annotate on the order to National that it is for anniversary poppies and specify which one.

## Quartermaster General

At a meeting on Feb. 28, 2022, the Life Membership Board of Trustees recommended, and the National Council of Administration approved the following 2022-23 Life member payout.



- Plan ABC - A total payout of \$10.50 for each Life member (\$3.50 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan D - A total payout of \$16.50 for each Life member (\$5.50 to each Post, Department and National).
- Plan E - A total payout of \$27.00 for each Life member (\$9.00 to each Post, Department and National).

As indicated in the Bylaws, payment will be made in Sept. 2022 for all Life members recorded as of Aug. 31, 2022. In addition, a payment will be made in Jan. 2023 for all Life members processed during the period Sept. 1 through Dec. 31 (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact Marc Garduno, Quartermaster General, [MGarduno@vfw.org](mailto:MGarduno@vfw.org).

## National Veterans Service

### **ACCREDITED SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING IS BEING OFFERED LIVE & VIRTUALLY**

The VFW National Veterans Service is pleased to announce the upcoming VFW National Veterans Service Proficiency Training Conference (PTC) for accredited representatives is being held May 10-13, 2022, live and in-person at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas. Additionally, *for the first time*, we are introducing a virtual workgroup option to our live conference. This allows each Department to enroll two additional accredited representatives to attend the conference virtually at the same dates and time as live training.

There is also the potential for some limited availability for attendance by other VFW-accredited service officers. However, their attendance is conditional; they must provide their own funding and are subject to space availability, for either the live or virtual session. Additional attendees will be required to pay a \$350 registration fee for attendance at the live session or \$200 for attendance at the virtual session.

In accordance with the National Veterans Service Policy & Procedure, all VFW-accredited service officers must regularly attend National Veterans Service (NVS) training conferences, therefore, attendance at this training session is mandatory for each Department Service Officer (DSO) located in a VA Regional Office and one other VA-accredited VFW representative selected by the DSO. NVS will work with the State Department or Division of Veterans Affairs in those Departments where the state runs the service program to discuss who should attend.

Questions regarding this or any VFW National Veterans Service sponsored training, should be addressed to Ryan Gallucci, Director, VFW National Veterans Service, at [rgallucci@vfw.org](mailto:rgallucci@vfw.org).

### **LAST CALL FOR VFW SERVICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2021-22 NOMINATIONS**

The deadline for submitting nominations for the John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award for 2021-22 is **April 30, 2022.**

Each Department Commander may nominate one eligible individual for this award. The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round-trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two night's hotel accommodations to attend the VFW National Convention (if an in-person event is held) where the award will be presented. In addition, the award recipient will receive \$599 in recognition of their accomplishments and to offset travel expenses.

We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant contributions service representatives make in your community.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Eligible nominees include:

- Department Service Officers
- Assistant Department Service Officers
- Claims Consultants/Representative/Analysts/Reviewers
- Veterans Service Officers/Representatives

Individuals NOT eligible for this award are:

- VFW National Staff
- VFW Contractors
- VFW accredited representatives whose primary employer is other than the VFW or a State Veterans Agency
- Previous Winners of the Accredited Representative of the Year Award

**SELECTION CRITERIA:**

1. Nominees for the annual award must have demonstrated exceptional efforts in assisting veterans and their families during the 12 months preceding the April 30 deadline.
2. A brief summary (no more than 2 pages) is to be submitted which explains the who, what, when, where, and how the nominee's efforts are considered exemplary. Suggested items for consideration (but not limited to)
  - Number of individuals with VFW POAs assisted
  - Community outreach conducted
  - Examples of excellent customer service provided
  - Meticulous use of VetraSpec or another electronic claims processing system (specify system)
  - Submission of TIMELY monthly reports (if located in a VA regional office)
  - Number of VFW members recruited
  - Innovative methods of assistance provided during the COVID-19 pandemic

Nominations can be submitted to NVS via email to [taldana@vfw.org](mailto:taldana@vfw.org) by no later than April 30.



**Legislative Roundup**

The House and Senate passed a government funding omnibus package that includes 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022, supplemental funding to support Ukraine, and three VFW-supported provisions that would affect veterans. The first provision would increase the maximum rate of basic pay for VA nurses and physician assistants, allowing VA to offer more competitive salaries. The second provision would permit VA's National Cemetery Administration to grant individual states the ability to decide who is interred in their state veterans cemeteries and to open their application process, ensuring all National Guard and Reserve members can be buried with fellow service members. The third provision would increase funding for VET TEC from \$45 million to \$125 million to meet the high demand for the program and enable its operation through the end of the fiscal year.

## VFW-SVA Fellowship Mock Hearing

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Ranking Member Mike Bost (R-Ill.) held a mock hearing with this year's VFW-SVA Legislative Fellows. Each fellow had the opportunity to testify on their proposal and answer questions. Topics included work-study parity, preventing toxic exposure, ensuring non-VA health care provider awareness of veterans, VA health care services, and extending the Forever GI Bill to include all veterans who left service after Dec. 2001.

## VFW Store



ORDER YOUR VFW UNIFORM CAP TODAY! Officer changes will be taking place soon. The peak season for ordering caps is April to August, when the VFW Store processes more than 7,000 cap orders. During this period, it can take up to 10 weeks to receive your cap. To order today go to [vfwstore.org/category/vfw/uniformcapandnametags](http://vfwstore.org/category/vfw/uniformcapandnametags) or call 833.VFW.VETS (833.839.8387).



CELEBRATE THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY! The VFW's audio essay contest marks its 75th year this year, and the VFW Store has a commemorative T-shirt, available for a limited time only- <https://www.vfwstore.org/products/GP392>.



OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY with grave marker flags [vfwstore.org/products/GP110](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP110). The Store also offers a VFW grave markers in rugged thermoplastic [vfwstore.org/products/22630](http://vfwstore.org/products/22630) and a U.S. veteran grave marker [vfwstore.org/products/29435](http://vfwstore.org/products/29435).



## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

MINNICK, JOHN W., Commander, Department of Alaska, 1998-1999, Quartermaster, Department of Alaska, 2004-2019 and a Gold Legacy Life member of Susitna Post 9365, Wasilla, Alaska, March 4, 2022.