

## Membership

Our Commander-in-Chief has laid down a challenge for January 2021! For January's Challenge, the top Post in each division with the most reinstated members between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31 will receive a \$1,000 stipend deposited into the Post account.

### DEPARTMENT "100 PERCENT" INCENTIVE

Any Department that attains 100% in membership by close of business on March 31, 2021, 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.**

### DEPARTMENT EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2021, the Department Commander will receive:

- **A Henry Golden Boy .22 Caliber Rifle or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Service (VTS).**

### POST COMMANDER AND QUARTERMASTER - NEW AND REINSTATED MEMBER AWARD

The top 10 Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and reinstated annual members by Jan. 1, 2021, will each be awarded:

- **A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.**

### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

As you get started in the new membership year, we have made it easier for you to get all the recruiting brochures you will need to make this membership year successful! It's as easy as one two three!

1. Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership Quick Links," select **Membership Online Order Form**.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges.

Follow the simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact Leticia Cortez at **1.888.564.6839** or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

## **POST DEVELOPMENT**

Stay-tuned for a short video training presentation on New Post Development. Our Associate Director of Membership, Corey Hunt, takes you through the three steps of New Post Development. In addition, this presentation will show you where to find valuable resources to help you better understand everything from recruiting to chartering a new Post in under eight minutes!

I have heard from many Departments who have on-going plans moving forward with chartering new Posts and there are many revitalization efforts under way. Keep the press on! If you have questions regarding a new Post, please contact us in Membership and we will help you!

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.

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/).

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be on Jan. 11, 2021, at 2:00 PM CST, and we will be covering the topic, Best practices for following up with your unpaid members. Look for the Membership Monday Zoom meeting invite in an OMS Notification on Jan. 6, 2021. All members can join. In addition, the Zoom link will be emailed as a meeting invitation to each Department Leadership and VFW Auxiliary President.

If you would like to suggest a Membership Monday training topic, please email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

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

Top Three Recruiters (as of 12/17/2020):

**Jack A. Hawley – 85**

VFW Post 1087, Dept. of MT

**Steven L. Woodward – 83**

VFW Post 2224, Dept. of WA

**Mathew B. Northen – 81**

VFW Post 8862, Dept. of Europe

## **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:**

<u>Levels</u>		<u>Posts</u>	<u>Departments</u>	<u>National</u>
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**

- The VFW Foundation Board convened via Zoom on Dec. 14, 2020. Among other agenda items, the Directors approved revisions to the eligibility criteria for the VFW Post Pandemic Relief Grant that will allow additional VFW Posts to qualify for assistance. The updated PPRG application, with details on the revised eligibility criteria, is available to download at [vfw.org/grants](http://vfw.org/grants). Questions regarding the PPRG may be directed to Jason Couch: [jcouch@vfw.org](mailto:jcouch@vfw.org) or 816-968-1174.
- If you are an Amazon.com customer, please consider selecting the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation as your charity of choice via Amazon Smile. For every purchase, the VFW Foundation will receive 0.5% to be used in support of important VFW programs. Follow these easy steps: 1. Go to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com); 2. Go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of your page; and 3. Select the option to [Change your Charity](#). You can also download or update the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android. Just open the app and find “Settings” in the main menu (☰). Tap on ‘AmazonSmile’ and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone. Then configure your AmazonSmile settings and remember to designate the “Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation.”

**Development**

**2021 VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Annual Campaign Kicks Off** – Your support is urgently needed for the 2021 VFW NVS Annual Campaign, which enables us to assist all generations of America’s veterans – especially those now home from Iraq and Afghanistan – receive the benefits they have earned. We can’t fight for veterans alone. Your donation right now ensures the VFW’s national force of highly-trained service officers is at the ready to help America’s veterans navigate the complicated VA system.

In this package, many will receive a 2021 Petition to Congress and a Memorial Day card. Please sign the petition and card and return them. We will be collecting the petitions and delivering them to Congress to tell them that any proposed cuts to veterans’ benefits are a slap in the face to all of us who have worn the uniform. The signed cards will be distributed to hospitalized veterans and service members in time for Memorial Day. Other members will receive the 2021 Member Survey to fill out and return.

**Your 2020 Year-End Tax Receipt Is On Its Way!** – Late January we will be mailing the 2020 Year-End Tax Receipts to VFW members who have requested to receive one at the end of the year.

**Create Your Legacy with Just a Few Words** – Having a will helps ensure your family and loved ones will be taken care of after your lifetime. Should you like to support future generations of veterans once your family is covered, you can do so by adding a gift to the VFW in your will. To learn more about wills and how easy it is to make a gift to the VFW in yours, visit [vfw.org/Plannedgiving](http://vfw.org/Plannedgiving). You can also contact the VFW

Planned Giving Office to request information on estate planning. Call us at 816.968.1119 or email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) today.

**Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism?** – Commander-in-Chief Harold “Hal” Roesch, II, 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

During the holidays we spend more time scrolling on our phones than we’d like to admit, but that makes it a good opportunity to share the VFW’s mission with our friends, family and social media communities.

Whether it’s PSAs and videos, or creative imagery, the VFW has developed many different resources for you to share.

Visit the [VFW Media Room](http://vfw.org) at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and help us share our story far and wide.

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

**All-American Requirement:** Encourage your Posts to donate directly to the VMS office to ensure they get credit for the VMS All American criteria. Post’s minimum donation is \$100.

**ATTN VMS Chairmen** – If you were mailed your Veterans & Military Support 2020-21 lapel pins and have not reconciled payment, now would be a good time to take care of it so that your donation will represent your Department's fundraiser for VMS to qualify for All-American.

Please use links below for all VMS programs and donations. We no longer accept email or faxed requests/reports.

#### **VMS Formstack Links:**

- **VFW Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp)
- **AUX Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp)
- **Chairman Report:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms\\_chairman\\_report](https://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report)
- **MAP Grant Application:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication](https://vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication)
- **MAP Grant Report:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantReport](https://vfw.org/MAPGrantReport)
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp](https://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp)
- **Adopt a Unit Report:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport](https://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport)
- **VMS Online Donation:** [heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1](https://heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1)

Donating to the VMS Program can also be done on the VFW Dashboard by going to the link “**VMS Donation**” on the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Your \$100 or more donation to the VMS Programs meets the eligibility for All American in this category. Thank you for your support!

## 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, Coast Guard and then Space Force. For military flags, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP238](https://vfwstore.org/products/GP238).

**FLY THE FLAG ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR'S BIRTHDAY.** The U.S. federal flag code has been amended by Congress and signed by the president to add Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to the list of days on which the flag should be displayed. His birthday is observed on the third Monday in January; therefore, the flag should be flown on that day. To purchase a U.S. flag from the VFW Store, go to [vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags](https://vfwstore.org/category/flags/usflags).

Many communities are conducting community service projects that day. It is highly suggested that all members support this day of service.

#### **SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD.**

Nominations for this award and the judging at the Post and District level (if applicable) should be completed and to their Department Headquarters for their judging by Jan. 1. After Department judging, each Department may select a single candidate for each of the three categories and submit those to VFW National Headquarters



by Feb. 1. The Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school in each grade category.

**NOTE:** The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which is available on the VFW website. Simply visit [vfw.org/#login](http://vfw.org/#login), log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Additional Resources**. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation Request form and Chairman’s manual are up on the VFW website.

**PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT DEADLINE REMINDER.** The deadline for mailing the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen winner packets to National Headquarters is Jan. 15, 2021 (even if they have not been personally notified they are the winner). This year, due to logistics and planning for the virtual Parade of Winners ceremony, Department winners will be contacted as soon as their packet is received by National Headquarters.

The suggested deadline for Departments to have reviewed and approved their District and Post entries in the All-American Dashboard is Jan. 31. This will ensure we have accurate reporting numbers across the organization and allot us the time to remedy errors. If you are unsure how to report your participation in the All-American Dashboard or if you are having login issues to the OMS system, contact Nick Lopez at [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or 816.968.1155.

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** Departments are asked to submit their three winning nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1. 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 Award

Each Department will receive their three awards and should 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 EMTs, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership. Order plaques and citations for public servants from the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=public%20servant).

Simply visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on **VFW Training & Support**, then click on **Community Service & Youth Programs**, then look under **Public Servant Program** for information.

**SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM.** Annually, the VFW awards three individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank. An applicant has to have reached his or her 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection. Awards are as follows: \$5,000 – 1st place scholarship, \$3,000 – 2nd place scholarship and \$1,000 – 3rd place scholarship. The deadline for entry to a VFW Post is March 1. A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at [vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY\\_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf](http://vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFWorg/MY_VFW/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf). For Scouting certificates go to [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scout%20of%20the%20year](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=scout%20of%20the%20year).

**50TH ANNIVERSARY VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM.** The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other non-governmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. As a Commemorative Partner, VFW Posts are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the following objectives.

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

**For the VFW Posts interested in becoming an official Commemorative Partner, they must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding.**

**Applications are available at [VietnamWar50th.com](http://VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program.** The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners will be kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. If you have any questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process, please direct them to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil). For Vietnam War commemorative items, shop the VFW Store at: [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam](http://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=vietnam).

**YOUTH HUNTING AND SHOOTING PROGRAMS.** VFW has been involved with the National Rifle Association (NRA) since 1920. Through the NRA, hundreds of VFW Posts provide hunter safety courses and sponsor shooting competitions. Annually, VFW and NRA offer junior and adult small-bore rifle and air rifle individual and team matches conducted by mail called Postal Matches.\*

NRA Postal Matches are designed for VFW rifle teams as a sport activity for youth and adults to build interest in rifle shooting and safety. A Postal Match is a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets which have been marked for identification. The team match is a series of four monthly matches for teams sponsored by VFW Posts held from December through March. The individual VFW match is fired in the fall with a December closing date. The scores are then mailed to the NRA for ranking of awards.

If your VFW Post does not already participate in the Youth/Adult Rifle Program and would like to take part in a program that has great appeal for youngsters as well as adults, please go to the NRA's Postal Match website [nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp](http://nrahq.org/compete/dept-postal.asp).

Complete program information, rules, and entry form (in PDF format) are available:  
[postalmatches.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/Postals/VFW%20Postal.pdf](https://postalmatches.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/Postals/VFW%20Postal.pdf).

If you have any questions, please contact the NRA directly at:

National Rifle Association  
Competitive Shooting Division  
11250 Waples Mill Rd.  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Email: [postals@nrahq.org](mailto:postals@nrahq.org)  
Phone: 703.267.1482

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).

\*There are clubs and Posts, etc. that have local shooting programs all around the world. They teach gun safety and target shooting. Often, they wish to compete against other groups but cannot afford to travel to competitions. The NRA created “postal matches,” where a team of shooters can have their own local competition using paper targets. These are NRA-sanctioned targets and must be signed by local officials verifying the manner in which the competition was conducted and the age of the participants. Those targets are then sent to the NRA Postal Match Program and, using the targets from the various groups, the NRA judges determine who wins, places, etc. and awards prizes. That way, the shooting match can involve shooters and clubs from almost anywhere without anyone having to travel. It’s all done through the U.S. Postal System. Hence, the term, “Postal Match.”

**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.

**POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (Nov. 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 15, 2021 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31, 2021 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; Independence Day, July 4; National POW/MIA Day, Sept. 17, 2021 (third Friday in Sept.); and Veterans Day, Nov. 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](https://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

Whether you're in town for a weekend staycation or on a solo adventure staying at a rented condo on the beach, it's important to be prepared.

With travel accident insurance, underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, you can help secure your family's financial security in the event of your injury or death from a travel-related accident. This coverage provides \$150,000 in accidental death (death while traveling in a private motor vehicle), an additional \$150,000 for death while traveling in a common carrier vehicle and a \$500 cash benefit for every day you stay in the hospital because of a covered accident. All benefit amounts reduce to 50% of the original benefit amount at age 75 regardless of age at enrollment.

As a VFW member, you're eligible to receive this coverage, and cannot be turned down, regardless of your health, occupation, past driving records or the number of miles you travel annually.

For additional information and to protect your travels, click [here](#) or call 1.877.850.0183.

## "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." 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.

**VFW SILVER, GOLD AND DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY POPPIES.** The silver, gold and diamond anniversary Buddy Poppies are only for Posts that are currently in their 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary years. 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. 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.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS JOINS "WORLD WAR I POPPY PROGRAM."** The Veterans of Foreign Wars is joining the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in announcing the WWI Poppy Program to raise awareness about World War I and generate funds for local VSO chapters all over the country.

The VFW is proud to share with you the WWI Poppy Program; an opportunity to generate resources for your Post while helping to honor the 4.7 million Americans who wore the uniform during WWI.

Poppies grew across the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War I. From 2017 to 2019, the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission will tell the story of those American veterans, through events, exhibits, and memorial efforts, and the VFW is proud to be a partner in this important commemoration.

Click on the following link to learn about the WWI Poppy Program and how your purchase of a Poppy Kit helps build the new National World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., while also helping to raise money for your Post.

Link: [ww1cc.org/poppy](http://ww1cc.org/poppy)

Here is a quick video that can help people understand why it is so important that we honor those who served during World War I: [youtube.com/watch?v=l\\_y4l49mZso](https://youtube.com/watch?v=l_y4l49mZso).

The red poppy is an internationally recognized symbol of veteran remembrance. Its use began in World War I and was captured in the war poem "In Flanders Fields," by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

**Congress Passes Significant Veterans' Legislation Package:** On Wednesday, the House passed its final vote on passage of [H.R. 7105](#), *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020*, which passed the Senate earlier this month and now heads to the president for signature. This legislation includes several VFW-supported bills that were pending in the 116th Congress.

- *Most notably the Deborah Sampson Act*, which would break the cultural barriers impacting women veterans by requiring VA to address privacy concerns and improve access, expand the amount of time new mothers are given to find health care coverage for their newborns, increase staff cultural competency, eliminate harassment and assault, and make other much-needed improvements to women veterans' health care. This forward-looking focus legislation would also examine outcomes to women veterans' services by requiring studies and reports on barriers to receipt of care, gap analysis on services for homeless women veterans, the availability of prosthetics for women, and other topics.
- Would require VA to make Disability Benefits Questionnaires available for public use, again.
- Would lower the age from 57 to 55 to remarry without incurring penalties for surviving spouses receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- Would modernize the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI) program.
- Would require VA to study incidents of cancer and other illnesses experienced by service members who served at the Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Air Base in Uzbekistan between Oct. 1, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2005.

- Would change the statutory definition of Vietnam veteran to include individuals who served in the Republic of Vietnam from Nov. 1, 1955, to Feb. 27, 1961.
- Would increase certain veteran funeral benefits and authorize VA to add spouses and eligible dependent children to VA-furnished headstones.
- Would increase from \$5 million to \$10 million the maximum amount VA may grant in a fiscal year to states and tribal organizations for maintaining veterans' cemeteries.
- Would call for the elimination of the 12-year limit on using Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits.
- Would require VA to create a database on its website to explain public institution requirements for in-state tuition.
- Would expand benefits and services for homeless veterans.
- Would create certain education, employment, and housing protections for veterans impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The passage of this veterans' legislation package satisfies a number of VFW resolutions and legislative priorities regarding women veterans' health care, disability assistance and memorial affairs, and economic opportunity issues.

## VFW Store

**Prices are reduced on 100+ items** in the VFW Store! Order now, while quantities last! Click [vfwstore.org/clearance](https://vfwstore.org/clearance) to shop now. Limited to stock on hand. No custom orders on clearance merchandise.

## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

WHITE, DANNY L., Commander, Department of Iowa, 2011-2012 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Waukee Post 11517, Waukee, Iowa, November 20, 2020.

O'NEILL, JAMES E. "JIM," National Council of Administration member, 2003-2005, Commander, Department of Tennessee, 2002-2003 and a Life Member of Sensing Brothers Post 4641, Dickson, Tennessee, December 11, 2020.

KESLING, ROBERT B. "BOB," Commander, Department of West Virginia, 1993-1994 and a Bronze Legacy Life Member of Meuse-Argonne Post 573, Clarksburg, West Virginia, January 3, 2021.