

## **Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic has issued a challenge to all VFW Posts for the month of Sept. 2021!**

We're a few months into the new membership year and it is time to really put our focus on membership growth. We want this year to be a benchmark year when it comes to membership and passing 100 percent in membership should be the goal that each and every Post, District, and Department strives for.

For the month of Sept. 2021, \$500 will be awarded to the top Post in each membership division based on recruiting, renewing, and reinstating the most annual members. This will count new members, annual members who renew their dues, and lapsed members who pay their annual dues to the Post. We want our Posts out there recruiting, retaining, and recovering members!

We know that a strong membership base is how we will move forward as an organization, because ***THE TIME IS NOW!***

Membership totals will be based on close-of-business totals on Aug. 31 to Sept. 30.

### **2021-22 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

The 2021-22 Membership Program is available online at [vfw.org](https://vfw.org), under MY VFW, scroll down to Membership Quick Links, click on Membership Recruiting and Retention. You will see the 2021-22 VFW National Membership Program in blue letters.

### **2021-22 NEW ALL-AMERICAN REQUIREMENT**

Posts must establish an official VFW Post Facebook page and consistently share VFW national content for All-American Program consideration.

*Approval will be conducted through the Programs dashboard.*

#### **Criteria:**

- Administrator access must be held by two trusted individuals. If the primary administrator cannot identify a second, then the VFW Department must be added as the second administrator.
- The entire profile must be completed, to include a proper name, VFW-themed profile picture, Post contact information, etc.
- All content displayed must be appropriate, relevant, adhere to organizational bylaws and align with our mission, vision and values.
- Must consistently share VFW National posts, content and articles about VFW-led initiatives, programs and events, etc.
- Page must have been active for at least six months.

## **ALL-AMERICAN POST CAP ORDER INFORMATION**

Members of an All-American Post may submit their cap order through the store after convention.

## **POST DEVELOPMENT**

Congratulations! You have begun your year to make a difference in your Post, District or Department! In doing so, you may have some questions? Like what does Memstats mean? Or, what is the membership percentage based on each new year? Maybe you have questions about VFW eligibility or as a new Quartermaster you may have questions about the Post Query. Don't worry, these are great questions to ask and this is very understandable as you begin your year! The National Membership team is here to help you be successful. Give us a call/email and search-out our training offerings on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org). If you are new to a leadership position, you should become familiar with the Membership Quick Links on the Home Page of [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

When it comes to developing new Posts and revitalizing existing Posts, research is key! It also helps to know who you need to have conversations with that will move your efforts forward. This is exactly the kind of information you will find in the New Post Development & Revitalization Manual. Do not wait – begin planning now! Give me a call if you have questions at 816-968-2788 or email at [coreyhunt@vfw.org](mailto:coreyhunt@vfw.org).

## **UPCOMING TRAINING**

The next Membership Monday training webinar will be in September. Look for the Membership Monday Zoom meeting invite in an OMS notification 3-5 days prior to scheduled Webinar training. All members can join. In addition, the Zoom link will be emailed as a meeting invitation to each Department's 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).

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

As always, please remember you have many resources available to you at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ/). The Membership Facebook Page is routinely updated to showcase informational videos. View our latest Hip-Pocket training video, answering the most frequently asked questions. For any questions or further information, contact the Membership Department via email at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org) or call us at 888.564.6839.

## **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 offers 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.

*What will your Legacy be?*

# VFW Foundation

Twisted X has agreed to a 3-year (2022, 2023 and 2024) sponsorship extension of the VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Parade of Winners' educational experience at \$130K per year. Twisted X creates comfortable, handcrafted footwear for men, women, and children across the lifestyle, western, work and outdoor categories, and is known for their cutting-edge comfort technologies, sustainability mindset and philanthropic roots. Please support this great corporate friend by visiting [twistedx.com/store-locations/](https://twistedx.com/store-locations/) to find a retail store near you. A patriotic line is also available via [VFWstore.org](https://VFWstore.org).

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter at [RPotter@vfw.org](mailto:RPotter@vfw.org).

## Development

**VFW Christmas Cards and Holiday Music CD** – This month we are mailing VFW Christmas Cards and a Holiday Music CD as our way of saying “Thank You” for your generosity in helping provide much-needed services to fellow veterans and service members. With the holidays quickly approaching, your support is urgently needed! Please help our heroes by sending a special donation when you receive this package. And please take the time to visit or call a hospitalized veteran or service member in your community during the holidays. Your best wishes and thanks for their service means more than you can imagine. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/Volunteer](https://heroes.vfw.org/Volunteer) to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility.

**Free Estate Planning Resources From the VFW** – Most people know the importance of a will or estate plan. But did you know more than half of American adults do not have one in place! So the VFW is providing a free Personal Estate Planning Kit, which you can download at [vfw.org/plannedgiving](https://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

Did you know you can now access all of the 122nd National Convention excitement on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)?

Watch or re-watch as the newly elected National Commander Fritz Mihelcic is installed, Bob Wallace accepts the Distinguished Service Award, and more!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

### VFW’s “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”

The Spring 2022 application is now available online at [vfw.org/scholarship](http://vfw.org/scholarship). Deadline for applications is Nov. 15, 2021.

The VFW’s “**Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship**” program has awarded over 2,000 scholarships totaling \$9.2 million since the beginning of the program in Jan. 2014.

For all Veterans & Military Support program information and forms, use the links provided below.

### VMS Formstack Links and Websites:

- **VFW Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp](http://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/websolutionapp)
- **AUX Website Solution:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp](http://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/auxwebsolutionapp)
- **Chairman Report:** [VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms\\_chairman\\_report](http://VFWPrograms.formstack.com/forms/vms_chairman_report)
- **MAP Grant Application:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication](http://vfw.org/MAPGrantApplication)
- **MAP Grant Report:** [vfw.org/MAPGrantReport](http://vfw.org/MAPGrantReport)
- **Adopt a Unit Application:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp](http://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitApp)

- **Adopt a Unit Report:** [vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport](http://vfw.org/AdoptAUnitReport)
- **VMS Online Donation:** [heroes.vfw.org/page/22950/donate1](http://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/category/military](http://vfwstore.org/category/military).

**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).

**PATRIOT DAY, SEPT. 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, Sept. 11, 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.

**NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, SEPT. 17.** 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 [vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia](http://vfwstore.org/category/memorial/pow-mia).

**NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

**PROGRAM.** This year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars will select an elementary, middle or high school teacher to receive the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher award. Teacher Award Chairman must submit one candidate for this award to their Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. The Department must select a single candidate for the award and submit the winner to VFW National Headquarters by Feb. 1.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form” which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and searching under “My VFW” in the Training & Support section.

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the District, if applicable, or on to the Department with the completed entry form.

VFW’s Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

**Please verify that all websites, publications, announcements, etc. has the correct teacher award entry deadlines and rules for the 2021-22 program year. The Teacher Entry form is now 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**. Here you will find all program manuals, and on the same page are all other program materials.

**IT’S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** It is the perfect time to be contacting schools, youth groups, parent organizations and others with information about Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen. Schools are making curriculum decisions now and parents are thinking about scholarships.

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

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [nlopez@vfw.org](mailto:nlopez@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1155.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN NATIONAL AWARDS.** Every Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen first place Department winner will receive a National scholarship or award. The amount for the Voice of Democracy National Awards now total \$154,000 and the Patriot’s Pen National Awards total is now \$55,000.



**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2021-22 themes were chosen by then-Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic. The Voice of Democracy theme will be "America: Where do we go from here?" and the Patriot's Pen theme will be "How can I be a good American?"

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2021-22 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

**UPDATED VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL.** An updated version of the Voice of Democracy Chairman's Manual is now available on the VFW Website. Changes to program include:

- Judging no longer has to be conducted in person, and can be completed remotely at the Post, District and Department level.
- The preferred format for Voice of Democracy audio essays is now Flash Drives/USBs or email submission. CDs will no longer be accepted.

Simply visit [vfw.org/Login.aspx](http://vfw.org/Login.aspx), log in to My VFW, then click on **VFW Training & Support** under the **Member Resources** heading, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs and Activities, then click on **Chairman Manuals** under the **Additional Resources** heading. Here you will find all program materials.

Additionally, anyone (including students, parents, teachers, and chairmen) can download and print the student entry forms for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen by visiting the below links:

Voice of Democracy: [vfw.org/VOD/](http://vfw.org/VOD/)

Patriot's Pen: [vfw.org/PatriotsPen/](http://vfw.org/PatriotsPen/)

For Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen brochures, posters, awards and more, visit the VFW Store: [vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/voiceofdemocracy) for Voice of Democracy and [vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/patriotspen) for Patriot's Pen.

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs office no later than Feb. 1, 2022. 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).

**NOTE: VFW PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATION POST ENTRY FORM.** This form was developed to assist VFW Post Safety Chairmen with an entry form to hand out to the local Fire Department, Police Department, etc. to assist interested individuals in nominating one of their own. The entry form along with the required documentation are to be returned to the local VFW Post for their judging. Once the winner in each category have been chosen, the Post will forward those entries on to the next level of judging.

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**.

**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.

**VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER.** VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2021-22 VFW Community Activities and Citizenship Education VFW Chairman's Manual. Simply visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and LOG IN (or create an account if you do not have one). After logging in, you'll be redirected to the "My VFW" page where you will click on VFW Training & Support and then Community Service, Youth Scholarships & Activities where you'll have access to the "CHAIRMAN MANUALS." *Participate in this activity during the week of Veterans Day, which is part of "National Veterans Awareness week," as designated by Congress.* Find Pledge of Allegiance pencils and coloring books, plus other citizenship education tools at the VFW Store [vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation](http://vfwstore.org/category/programs/citizeneducation).

**2020-21 FRED C. HALL MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING POST SPECIAL PROJECT WINNER ANNOUNCED.** The Veterans of Foreign Wars is proud to announce that Cole-Miers VFW Post No. 3619 in DeRidder, Louisiana, was selected to receive the 2021 VFW Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award, which recognizes VFW Posts for unique and outstanding community service projects.

Post 3619 was selected for its unbelievable resiliency and extraordinary dedication to supporting and caring for its community in the wake of the deadly 2020 Hurricane Laura. Despite Post 3619's Post home sustaining major water, wind and structural damage, including a 7-foot-wide tree crashing through the roof, Post members focused their efforts on helping others.

For several weeks members worked clearing major lines of communication, removing trees from houses, and clearing debris to allow access for emergency personnel. The Post also teamed up with several local organizations to prepare and feed more than 2,000 people in the first week, and collect and distribute more than 200,000 tons of supplies to families in need around the state.

**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 21, 2022 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30, 2022 (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](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

## Providing for Your Family's Future with Life Insurance Central

To your family, you're an original. That's why you need coverage that *fits your life* — not the other way around. With Life Insurance Central, you can be your authentic self without giving up the peace of mind you and your family deserve. Life Insurance Central allows you to shop for the coverage you need, even if you are over age 65, have health issues or need a larger amount of coverage. Services include:

- Head-to-head competitive quotes
- Free, personalized service
- Trusted by the VFW to bring affordable life insurance to members

Life Insurance Central provides you with the peace of mind that comes with knowing your family will be okay if something should happen to you. [Get additional information today.](#)

## "Buddy"® Poppy

**"BUDDY"® 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 (5/20/2021): 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.

**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.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship Application Process Now Open

Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. The program, which is in its eighth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Five student veterans will be selected for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department leaders on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active in all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans.

[Learn more and apply for the fellowship.](#)

## Administrative Operations

**REQUESTING CEREMONIAL RIFLES, AMMUNITION & MILITARY EQUIPMENT** - Department Adjutants and Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post officers to refer to the revised information located at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) where they will need to log in to the "My VFW" page and select the "VFW Training and Support" link, then "Member & Officer Training, Forms and Templates" where you'll have access to "Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures" and then click on "Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment" when requesting a "conditional" donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander*, *Post Adjutant* or *Post Quartermaster*, one of whom needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person's mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the “Ceremonial Rifles, Ammunition & Military Equipment” pages in the website. It is requested that a Post not go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

**CAPS DURING CHAPLAIN PRAYERS** – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), “members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.”

## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

QUINNELL, PETE, All American Commander, Department of Wyoming, 1998-1999 and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Thunder Basin Centennial Post 7756, Gillette, Wyoming, June 17, 2021.

BLANDA, SR., RAYMOND G., Immediate Past Commander, Department of Rhode Island, 2020-2021 and a Life Member of Amancio-Falcone-Gaccione Post 8955, Westerly, Rhode Island, August 23, 2021.