



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS

Start of a new Year.

By Commander Jarrod McReynolds



Comrades

I hope that this newsletter finds you in the midst of celebrating

our great nation with you family and friends. Take a moment to remember those that first made this freedom possible, and those that sacrificed to protect it.

Today I spent a lot of time reflecting on my time with the VFW, and why I, like so many others continue to be passionate in their service. What it comes down to is every day we get to make our community better, help youth, and give a hand up to Veterans in need. But it is so much more than that, in every interaction with our community, veterans and youth; we make an impact that may lead that individual to also do great things, and have a great affect on someone else.

In many ways our community service, youth activities, and Veterans assistance can have a domino effect, that not only transform the lives of thous we work with directly, but could change the lives of

others down the line. There are many organizations that do work like this, but in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I get to do this work with my comrades, who not only served in the military, but served while in combat. According to a VA study cited by [FiveThirtyEight](#) an estimated 5.2% of the current US population have served during war time. And some estimates hold that only 10% of the 5.2% were in a combat zone. Call it vanity, call it a shared experience, but I call them my brothers and sisters; and along with our Auxiliary members this is the group that I choose to make a difference with. We serve our community, we mentor our youth to be future leaders, and together we take care of our Veterans and their families.

So this 4th of July when you are enjoying time with your family and friends, take a moment, maybe during your prayers, or while watching fireworks, and remember those you served with, those that originally fought for our freedoms, and those that have since continued to fight for our way of life. Hold close to your heart, our continued efforts to take care of those closest to us, and those that need our assistance. Together through OUR organization and with our brothers

PALMER LAKE VFW POST #3915



www.palmerlakevfw.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Prayer Corner

Page 2

Programs

Community Service	Page 3
Membership	Page 4
Youth Activities	Page 4
Honor Guard	Page 4
Veterans and Military Support	Page 5
Safety	Page 5
The Cootie Corner	Page 5
Veterans Issues	Page 6
Legislation	Page 7
Buddy Poppies	Page 8
Veterans and Post Activities	Page 8
Americanism and Citizenship	Page 9

The rest

Dates to Note	Page 9
The Canteen	Page 10

and sisters we will continue to make a difference that will last not only our life times, but the life times of those we reach.

As many of you know the new year for the VFW just started July 1st. Many of the activities and programs we will be starting count for awards and recognition for this year. While what we do we do not do for awards and recognition, we still like to win. Many of the criteria for All-American Post have changed this year, and we have it well with in our ability to make All-American Post this year.

As with every year we will need to reach 100% in membership to be eligible, however there is a renewed focus on community service, youth activities and Veterans Services. While there are chairman that will be working each of these activities, we need everyones assistance to make it happen. Check out the membership section and the attached flyer's on recruiting and reach out to your fellow Veterans that are not members yet. There are updated for the Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen in the youth activities section. And of course make sure to get the latest information about community service in the - you guessed it - community service section. Then make sure you add the dates in the dates to remember section to your calendar so you don't miss any of the exciting opportunities that are coming up.

The best way to find out what is going on, and how to get involved is to join us at our next members meeting the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Come out to the meeting, and stay after for a couple of free drinks, and camaraderie with your brothers and sisters. if you have not been to a members meeting in a while I hope you will consider joining us again.

Now that almost all restrictions of COVID have been lifted, our daily lives are starting to get back to normal. As many of you know Lynn Olkives passed last March at the start of the Pandemic. Mike has now been able to finalize arrangements, I hope that as many of you that were touched by Lynn as a member of our Post will be able to attend.

You are invited to join us Friday, July 16, 2021 2:00 o'clock PM honoring Lynn Rae Olkives at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery 7601 34th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55450

Followed by a celebration of life at 3:30 to 8 PM at the Crystal VFW POST #494 5222 Bass Lake Rd. Crystal MN 55429.

[Lynn's Caring Bridge](#)

Jarrod McReynolds
Commander
palmerlake.vfw3915@gmail.com

Prayer Corner

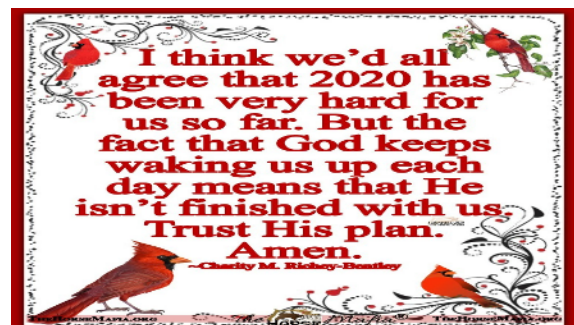
By Chaplin Nate Gehl



Palmer Lake VFW is not only a Veteran's organization, but also a family. We grow, work, laugh and morn together.

We morn the passing of Auxiliary Member Pam Arnold keep her family in your thoughts and prayers

Please keep Lee Mudge in your thoughts and prayers, he is back home from the hospital and Kim is keeping him as comfortable as possible.



Community Service

Senior Vice Janet Schaak



Have you logged all your community service hours?

[Click Here](#)

This year Community Service is a major focus for All-American Post. We know that there are a lot of community service that is taking place, but is not getting recorded. Don't be worried if you are not sure if it is eligible, enter it, we will check to make sure that it is. If you are spending time planning an event, or filling out paper work for an activity this all counts. If you volunteer at your church or assist with meals on wheels these activities count. It does not have to be an activity that you are doing directly for the VFW. Did you spend time at the Post doing some sort of volunteer work such as spring cleaning, this should also be counted. Our website has a great listing of what is eligible, and what should be submitted for community service [here on our website..](#)

Due to a miscommunication with the City the Farmers market will be canceled for the remainder of the year but we will be back next year. Thank you to everyone that came out. It was starting to take off and while we are disappointed that we have to stop, we will ensure that we have a full year next year.

Please mark September 18th off on your calendars. This is the tentative date for the return of our annual 5K. Thank you to Dean Lyons who is going to be heading up this event. Stay tuned to the newsletter for the latest information as we work on getting this event up and running.

There are other events that are also planned, make sure to find out the latest by joining us at our next post meeting. It is going to take us all to make this a successful year of serving our

community.

If you hear of an event, or community activity that is going on that you think we should be a part of please be sure to let us know. The more we get involved, the better it is for our organization. Now is the time to make sure that we are making an impact on our community. Remember the people we reach today, could have a big impact on others in the future. You never know what you can accomplish until you try to accomplish it.

Share the Veterans Crisis Line Number to Save a Life

Crisis Line. This confidential, toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hot line serves Veterans and their loved ones year-round. Reach qualified caring Responders:

by phone at 800-273-8255,
via on-line chat on their website, or
by text message at 838255.

[Minneapolis VA COVID Vaccine Information](#)

Membership

Junior Vice Elizabeth Nelson



As with every year with the start of the new VFW year our membership goals will restart. Of course we want to reach 100% as a minimum for the year. Now is the time to reach out to your fellow VFW eligible Veterans and let

them know what we are all about. See the flyer's attached at the end of this news letters for VFW facts and a membership flyer. And don't forget to make sure they mark you down as their sponsor so you get credit for a new member. Make sure to let them know that they can signup through our website and find out more about Palmer Lake VFW.

[Membership Application](#)

[Membership Details](#)

Youth Activities

Program Chair Janet Schaak

The 2021-22 Voice of Democracy theme is: America: Where Do We Go From Here?

The 2021-22 Patriot Pen theme is: How Can I Be A Good American?

The time is now to reach out to eligible students and let them know about the youth scholarships. We will be posting more on social media soon, please be sure to share and like these posts to help get the word out. If you work in the schools, or know a teacher please let them know that these can be a great class project, that can help one of their students future with a scholarship for college.

We are always looking for scouts to participate in the scout of the year program that will happen at the start of 2022, if you know a scout that is doing great things we will be wanting to talk with them.

Honor Guard

Honor Guard Commander Robert Hystad



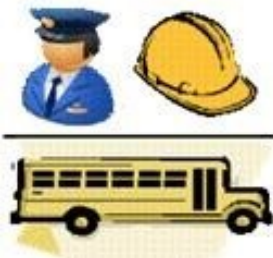
Palmer Lake VFW Honor Guard at Memorial Day 2021

Veteran and Military Support

By Post Commander Jarrod McReynolds

The VFW Unmet Needs program provides up to \$5,000 in financial assistance to service members and military families who face unexpected financial difficulties as a result of military service. The program assists with the costs associated with basic life needs and does not require repayment. Qualified applicants must have served on active duty within the past 72 months

Safety



Have you entered into the
Community service report
your safety Volunteer
work?

If you have participated, or assisted in any work that deals with Pedestrian Safety, Drug Awareness, Recreational Safety, Highway Safety, Home and Fire Safety or other Safety projects please submit this on the [Community Service and Volunteer form](#).

Don't forget to also include Time spent donating blood anything that you do for the betterment of others has a place on the Community service and Volunteer form.

The Cooties Corner

By CCDB Terry Wagner



The Military Order of the Cootie is a subsidiary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Established in 1920, the organization is based on the principle of good humor and fun. The Cooties were instrumental in helping to establish the VFW National Home for Children, and National Home and the Cooties share a long and rich history.

Building sponsorship represents a strong commitment to the National Home, and it is critical to our ability to serve struggling families. Home sponsors provide for a home's annual costs, including utilities, lawn care and trash removal, as well as home maintenance and repairs. The National Home is grateful to leadership and members of The Military Order of the Cootie for their commitment to sustaining this house.

Terry E. Wagner

CCDB Pup tent 66

To contact me:

E-mail at wagnerterry@comcast.net

Or phone at 612-581-2719

Terry E. Wagner

CCDB PT (Sticktites) #66

Veterans' Issues

By Post Service Officer Jeff Jarosz

Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance

Program (VRRAP)

The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) offers education

and training for high-demand jobs to Veterans who are unemployed because of the

COVID-19 pandemic. Keep reading to find out if you're eligible and how to apply.

Am I eligible for this program?

To be eligible for this program, you must meet all the requirements listed here.

All of these must be true. You're:

- At least 22 years old, but not older than 66, and
- Unemployed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- Not rated as totally disabled because you can't work, and
- Not enrolled in a federal or state jobs program

Note: You can't receive VRRAP benefits at the same time as you're receiving unemployment

benefits (including CARES Act benefits).

If I'm eligible for other education benefits or VRE, can I get

VRRAP benefits?

No. At the time you apply for VRRAP, you can't be eligible for any of these other benefits:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill
- Montgomery GI Bill
- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VRE)
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA)
- Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

Note: You can get VRRAP benefits if you were at one time eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill but

you've transferred all of your benefits to family members.

What types of education and training programs

does VRRAP cover?

VRRAP covers education and training programs approved under the GI Bill and Veteran

Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) that

lead to high-demand

jobs. These include associate degrees, non-college degrees, and certificate programs. The

Department of Labor determines what's considered a high-demand job for VRRAP.

Find out which jobs are considered high demand (PDF)

What benefits can I get through this program?

If you're eligible for VRRAP, you can get:

- Up to 12 months of tuition and fees, and
- A monthly housing allowance based on Post-9/11 GI Bill rates

How do I apply?

You can apply online right now.

Apply for VRRAP education benefits

More information about VRRAP

How long will this program be available?

VRRAP will be available until December 11, 2022. We'll stop making payments on this date—or

when we reach either the \$386 million funding limit or the 17,250 participant limit.

How do I know which schools participate in VRRAP?

You can check our list of participating schools. We'll update this list as schools sign up.

Check the list of schools participating in VRRAP (PDF)

What if I have other questions?

You can call us at 888-442-4551 (TTY: 711). We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to

7:00 p.m. ET.

Last updated: May 25, 2021

If any member has questions about their earned VA benefits, Minnesota Veteran's benefits or questions about filing a VA claim, I can be reached at jjaros@q.com or 763-434-9708

Jeff

Blood Drive

VFW Palmer LAKE Post 3915

Banquet Room

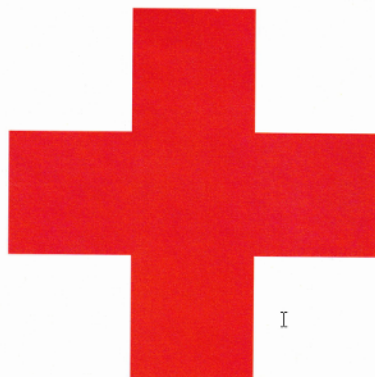
2817 N. Brookdale Dr, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

**Monday July 12th, 2021
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



I

Legislation

BUDGET

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Properly fund the POW/MIA full accounting mission. Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

HEALTH CARE

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis. Expand telehealth services.
- Expand nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Extend Persian Gulf War disability compensation eligibility beyond 2021 and to Afghanistan-theater veterans, and reform the relevant Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Establish presumptive disability compensation benefits for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, blast survivors, and for health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Transfer control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the National Cemetery Administration.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, they must have access to:

- Timely and improved transition assistance, including access to programs after they leave military service.
- High-quality and sustainable education benefits. Strong employment and training programs.
- Small business development opportunities.
- Civilian credentials or academic credit for military training.
- Hiring preferences in the civil service and with large government contractors.
- National veterans treatment court advocates.
- Education and training in new and expanding career fields.
- Affordable housing and wraparound services to avoid homelessness.
- Improved character of discharge review and appeals procedures.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD must:

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Eliminate sexual assaults in the military. Establish the Armed Forces

University.

- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.
- Improve stability and support for military families.

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND POW/MIA

To fully support service members and their mission to fight the war on terrorism, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world, Congress and DOD must:

- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Provide the necessary funding of at least five percent of GDP for the readiness, training, modernization, health care, and quality-of-life initiatives for the armed forces.
- Preserve the all-volunteer force.

The VFW Action Corps Weekly, an easy-to-read electronic newsletter that highlights the VFW's advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill. Immediate access to a nationwide database of contact information for all elected officials, a congressional directory.



Regular VFW "Action Alerts" on how to get involved when our nation's veterans, service members and their families need their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

To view this week's edition: [Click here](#)

Buddy Poppies

Program Chair Past Dep. Commander Lee Ulferts

Thank you to all of the volunteers that assisted in Distributing Poppies.

In Flanders Fields

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago

We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved, and now we lie,

In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.

In comradeship,
Lee Ulferts



Veteran and Post Activities

By Program Chair Blair Sorvari



CCX Media · Follow

May 30 · 🌐

Osseo Students Start "Take a Hero Fishing" Program with Palmer Lake VFW

After the Palmer Lake VFW Post 3915 helped some Osseo students with expenses for the ... See More



Americanism and Citizenship

Program Chair Jarrod McReynolds

Upcoming Holidays Dates

Date		Holiday
Jul 4	Sunday	Independence Day
Jul 13	Tuesday	Nathan Bedford Forrest Day
Jul 14	Wednesday	Bastille Day
Jul 16	Friday	Rural Transit Day
Jul 18	Sunday	Tisha B'Av
Jul 20	Tuesday	Eid al-Adha
Jul 23	Friday	Pioneer Day
Jul 25	Sunday	Parents' Day
Jul 27	Tuesday	National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

Dates to Note

Next Aux meeting July 13th at 6:00 PM at Post and via Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 852 7320 9602

Passcode: 056403

Dial in by Phone +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 852 7320 9602

Passcode: 056403

Next Post meeting July 14th at 1900 at Post and via Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: PLVFW

Dial in by Phone +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 895 6318 4205

Passcode: 705340

District Meeting July 24th @ 10am Kraus-Hartig #6587

National Convention will be in Kansas City MO July 31-Aug. 5, 2021.

Fall Freedom Festival September 11th

Suicide Awareness 5k September 18th

Canteen Calendar

Club Manager Andrea Moy

July 2021

July 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun 27 - Jul 3	Jun 27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2	3
						*\$12 BEER BUCKETS 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 7PM BARGO	3:30 HORSE RACES 3:30 MEAT RAFFLE
Jul 4 - 10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		HAPPY HOUR 5-7	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5 PM MEAT RAFFLE 6PM HORSESHOES	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 6:30 PM BINGO	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7*	*\$12 BEER BUCKETS* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 7PM BARGO	3:30 MEAT RAFFLE 3:30 HORSE RACES 7:30 PM KARAOKE
Jul 11 - 17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		HAPPY HOUR 5-7	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5 PM MEAT RAFFLE 6PM HORSESHOES	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 6:30 PM BINGO	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7*	*\$12 BEER BUCKETS* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 7PM BARGO	3:30 MEAT RAFFLE 3:30 HORSE RACES 7:30PM DJ JEFF
Jul 18 - 24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		HAPPY HOUR 5-7	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5 PM MEAT RAFFLE 6PM HORSESHOES	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 6:30 PM BINGO	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7*	*\$12 BEER BUCKETS* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 7PM BARGO	3:30 MEAT RAFFLE 3:30 HORSE RACES 7:30PM KARAOKE
Jul 25 - 31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		HAPPY HOUR 5-7	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5 PM MEAT RAFFLE 6PM HORSESHOES	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 6:30 PM BINGO	*HAPPY HOUR 5-7*	*\$12 BEER BUCKETS* 5-7 GRILL NIGHT 7PM BARGO	3:30 MEAT RAFFLE 3:30 HORSE RACES 7:30PM DJ JEFF

1

6/22/2021 5:41 PM

FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization, the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.5 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

YOUR DONATION OF

\$20

ENSURES THE VFW CAN

Educate a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

Provide training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Deliver 4 morale-boosting “welcome home” celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



1,900+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

61

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

\$9.7 billion+

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits — which includes \$1.4 billion in new benefits paid to veterans in fiscal year 2020.

2.3 million+

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

23

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$2.9 million

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

\$12.1 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

\$9.2 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,054 veterans and service members through VFW's “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” since January 2014.



The VFW by the numbers

1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

6,024

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



Cutting red tape

110,000+

Number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2020.

Nearly 15,000

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2020 resulting in more than \$138 million in disability compensation.

27

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Helping struggling military families

10,828

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004.

\$5,387,846

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

3,688

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



Improving life in America

10.3 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$20.8 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Honoring the fallen

7.3 million

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

\$7.2 million

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans last year.



Inspiring patriotism in young people

29,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2020–21 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

84,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2020–21 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

WELCOME HOME

Learn about the VFW
and what WE can do
for YOU.

A photograph of a soldier in a camouflage uniform hugging his family. The soldier is on the left, looking down at a young child in a red and white striped shirt. A woman with long blonde hair is on the right, smiling and holding the child. The background is white. A large, diagonal, olive green graphic element is on the left side of the image.

vfw.org



WE STAND FOR VETERANS.

You Belong Here

As the nation's largest organization composed entirely of veterans who've served in a foreign conflict, VFW membership spans the globe with over 6,100 Posts worldwide. We're an elite group of proud veterans who continue watching each other's backs long after the fight is over.

Camaraderie. Friendship. People who understand you. You'll find it all as a member of the VFW.



We support our brothers and sisters in arms, on the front line and here at home. There's a sense of pride in knowing that through your VFW membership, you're continuing a tradition of comradeship and advocacy that's more than 115 years old.



Currently, Vietnam veterans represent the largest portion of VFW members. However, more than half of our new members since 2005 have been age 39 and younger. In addition, women veterans are one of the fastest-growing groups in our ranks.

With thousands of Posts in the U.S. and overseas, you can always find a place to belong among those veterans who have shared your experiences. No other veterans organization can match the VFW's commitment to our nation's veterans and those currently serving.

Taking Care Of Our Own

Veterans have always watched out for each other. When veterans of the Spanish-American War returned home in 1899, there was no guarantee of medical care, no veterans' pension, and many veterans and their families were left to fend for themselves after their sacrifice. A visionary band of veterans formed what would eventually become the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and through hard-fought determination established the veterans benefits we enjoy today. We exist to protect and defend those who have sacrificed for our nation. You've earned that.

A nighttime photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The building is illuminated with warm white lights, highlighting its classical architecture, including the large dome topped with the Statue of Freedom. The sky is a deep, dark blue. In the foreground, the steps and lower levels of the building are visible, with some streetlights and interior lights glowing. A semi-transparent yellow banner is positioned across the lower third of the image, containing the text "ADVOCACY FOR VETERANS" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

ADVOCACY FOR VETERANS

Fighting For You

We strategically put our legislative muscle to work on Capitol Hill every day. Standing up for your rights. Fighting to protect funding for critical veterans' programs. Mobilizing grassroots support to create a citizenry of informed, engaged veterans' advocates. Getting the job done. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's priority goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of our members and their families behind us, our voice on "the Hill" cannot be ignored, and we will continue the fight for our fellow veterans.



VFW leadership testifies regularly before Congress. As a united voice for veterans everywhere, we make our voices heard on legislation and proposals that affect you.

Our grassroots lobbying efforts are carried out by the Action Corps. VFW's Action Corps influences the passage or defeat of legislation in the best interests of veterans and service members by writing, visiting and calling congressional officials. To find out more, visit vfw.org.

THE VFW HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN NEARLY EVERY MAJOR LEGISLATIVE VICTORY FOR VETERANS IN THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES.

AMONG THEM:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1920, Widows & Orphans Pension Act (Spanish-American War) | 2006, Protestors banned from military funerals (H.R. 5037) |
| 1930, Veterans Administration (VA) established | 2007, VFW calls for VA/military health care system review after Walter Reed outpatient debacle |
| 1933, Wagner-Peyser Act: Veterans Employment Service | 2008, Record VA discretionary budget approved; G.I. Bill for the 21st Century signed into law (Post-9/11 G.I. Bill) |
| 1936, Bonus bonds (\$2.4 billion) to WWI vets redeemable | 2009, Advanced Appropriations for VA becomes law |
| 1944, G.I. Bill of Rights (P.L. 346); Veterans Preference Act | 2010, Family Caregiver Legislation signed into law; Ensured all VA and DOD health care programs were recognized as meeting minimum coverage standards under national health care law |
| 1952, Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act (Korean War G.I. Bill) | 2011, VOW to Hire Heroes Act; Stopped annual TRICARE premium increases |
| 1954, Veterans Compensation Act | 2012, Ensured all veterans' programs were exempt from mandatory federal budget cuts through sequestration |
| 1962, Veterans Benefits Act (Cold War G.I. Bill) | 2013, Reinstated military Tuition Assistance programs; new Stolen Valor Act signed into law |
| 1966, Veterans Readjustment Benefits Act (P.L. 89-358) (Vietnam War G.I. Bill) | 2014, In-state tuition for Post-9/11 GI Bill veterans made law; Veterans First Funding Act |
| 1978, Veterans preference preserved | 2015, Eliminated 1% COLA reduction for military retirees |
| 1981, Former POW Benefits Act | To learn more about the VFW's legislative accomplishments and goals, go online and visit: vfw.org/advocacy |
| 1984, Montgomery G.I. Bill | |
| 1989, VA becomes a Cabinet department | |
| 1991, Agent Orange Act (P.L. 102-4) | |
| 1999, Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act | |
| 2004, Full concurrent receipt for military retirees rated 100% disabled (P.L. 108-375) | |
| 2005, Traumatic Injury Insurance supplemental created (S. 806) | |

*“Let us strive on to finish the work we are in,
to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for
him who shall have borne the battle and for
his widow and his orphan, to do all which may
achieve and secure a just and lasting peace
among ourselves and with all nations.”
- Abraham Lincoln*

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS



Here For You

VFW Service Officers are stationed across the country and on major military bases to help with the VA claims process. We're working harder than ever to create seamless transitions for new veterans and demand justice for veterans of past conflicts.

Through National Veterans Service (NVS) representatives at every VA Regional Office, the VFW provides claims assistance free of charge to all veterans, and remains dedicated to ensuring that each and every veteran received the benefits we've earned.



If you're ready to file a VA claim, don't go at it alone.

Let the VFW help.

Find a service officer in your state at vfw.org/NVS.



At the Ready

VFW programs are in place to provide meaningful assistance at every stage of your military or civilian life.

- Assistance securing emergency financial grants through the Unmet Needs program
- Free phone time for deployed service members and hospitalized veterans through Operation Uplink
- VFW's Mental Wellness Campaign, providing assistance for our fellow veterans who may be affected by invisible injuries and emotional stress.
- Free health screenings, eye exams, cholesterol checks and other tests at our annual Health Fair
- Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claims assistance for separating military personnel at over two dozen military installations worldwide.

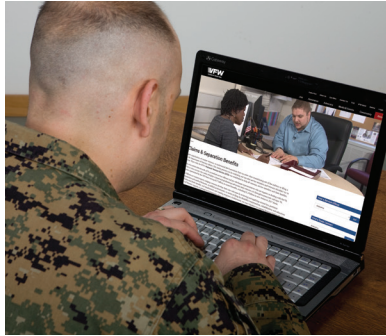


CONNECTIONS FOR VETERANS

Come On In

The VFW never stops evolving to meet the needs of our members. We listen and deliver. So if you're looking to expand your network, make new friends, and make a difference - then come on in! With over 6,100 Posts worldwide, you can always find a VFW Post in your area where you can get first-hand experience about what we're doing for veterans, both locally and throughout the nation.

If you would like to get in contact with your local VFW Post, all you need to do is visit vfw.org and use our **Find A Post** feature to locate the nearest VFW to you, anywhere in the country!



The best way to see what the VFW is doing in your area is to visit your local Post and get involved!

Stop by and learn how

**NO ONE DOES MORE
FOR VETERANS.**



- Explore job and career opportunities on www.vetjobs.com, a VFW-sponsored job board created just for military members, veterans and their spouses.
- VFW's Facebook community is nearly 600,000 strong. Check it out, join the conversation and discover how our fast-growing group of patriotic friends can benefit you.
- Learn about our educational programs like Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen which help educate the youth of America about the role of veterans in our history and our society. Find out more at vfw.org/Youth.
- Take advantage of the VFW's Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship and receive up to \$5,000 for continuing education. Learn more at vfw.org/Scholarship.
- Enjoy numerous exclusive membership benefits ranging from travel and financial services to supplemental insurance programs and military-civilian transition assistance programs, available to all VFW members.

I Want To Join!

If you've served honorably in a foreign conflict, **even if you're still serving**, we want you on our side as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. By filling out the application on the next page, you can take the first step towards becoming part of the nation's largest group of combat veterans. We offer multiple membership options, from Annual membership to a Lifetime membership payable in one lump sum or as installments over the course of a year.

Annual Membership - \$45/year

Lifetime Membership - see below

*Mail in the completed application with the appropriate dues to the address on the back of the form, or bring it to your local VFW Post and you're on your way to becoming part of a group where **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!***

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

AGE as of DECEMBER 31st	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		initial payment	11 payments of
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00	\$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$15.45

Automatic Payment Plan Terms and Conditions: You authorize the VFW to initiate electronic debit entries or affect a charge by any other commercially accepted practice to your account set forth above for the payment of dues reflected on this application. You understand such charges may be made within 2-3 business days of payment due date. For installment payments, charges will be made on or around the 1st or the 15th day of the month. This authorization will remain in full force until VFW has received notification from you of its termination or upon completion of the installment payments. Annual dues are subject to change. By completing this authorization, you acknowledge that you will only receive notice when the payment would differ by more than \$10.00 from the most recent payment. Contact VFW Member Services at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387) or write VFW Member Services, 406 W. 34th St., Suite 316, Kansas City, MO 64111 to inquire about or cancel a payment, or to report problems such as bank closures, lost or stolen account numbers, closed accounts, or unauthorized transactions. Cancellation requests must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time ten business days prior to the scheduled payment date. If you are unaware of the charge date for your account, please contact VFW. If a payment is returned by your financial institution (e.g., due to insufficient funds, incorrect account information, closed account, etc.) the VFW will contact you at the address we have on file, explain why the payment could not be processed, and provide alternate payment options. The privilege of making payments under this agreement may be revoked by VFW if any item is not paid upon presentation. You may have additional rights and responsibilities under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act.

Life Membership Installment Plan Terms and Conditions: The VFW life membership installment plan allows any VFW member/applicant to purchase a life membership by making an initial payment of \$45.00 and (11) monthly payments. The member will be issued an annual membership card at the time of enrollment. A permanent life membership card will be issued upon the completion of payments. The life membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on December 31 of the year in which the application is submitted. Delinquencies of 31-120 days can be corrected through make up payment(s) or plan end date pushed forward. Member will be dropped from the installment plan after 120 days delinquent and all monthly payments made to date will be applied to future years annual dues.

Automatic Payment Plan and Installment options require credit/debit card for processing. By signing this application you acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions of the Automatic Payment Plan and Installment options, if selected.

Name: _____ Email: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Address: _____ Branch of Service: (circle all applicable) Phone: _____
_____ ARMY NAVY AIR FORCE SSN (optional): _____
city state ZIP MARINES COAST GUARD Gender: (M) (F)

Qualifying Foreign Service (circle all applicable)

WORLD WAR II	BOSNIA/KOSOVO
OCCUPATION SERVICE	GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY
KOREAN SERVICE (1950-1954)	AFGHANISTAN (2001-present)
KOREA DUTY (1955-present)	IRAQ (2003-2011)
VIETNAM SERVICE	INHERENT RESOLVE (2014 - present)
EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS	SSBN DETERRENT PATROL INSIGNIA
DESERT SHIELD/STORM	HOSTILE FIRE / IMMINENT DANGER PAY

Dates and location of service in an overseas conflict:

dates

location

Please list any campaign medals received below:

MEMBERSHIP TYPE (circle one)

Member-At-Large OR Post # _____

☐ ANNUAL MEMBER: Please enclose \$45 dues or Post dues of \$ _____

☐ check if you wish to be automatically billed for annual dues

☐ LIFE MEMBER: Please enclose amount shown on table.

☐ LIFE MEMBER INSTALLMENT PLAN: Please enclose \$45 initial payment

By entering into the Installment Plan, I authorize the VFW to automatically charge my account \$ _____ to be paid in 11 monthly installment payments after my initial payment of \$45.00. Information about scheduling payments can be found by calling the VFW Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS.

BILLING INFORMATION

☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ DISCOVER ☐ AMEX ☐ CHECK

card number

exp. date

amount

I attest that I am a citizen or national of the United States, that my Campaign Service was honorable, and that I have never subsequently been discharged from military service under dishonorable conditions. I also certify that (1) I am entitled to a campaign ribbon or medal authorized by the U.S. government based on my overseas service or; (2) I have served overseas in Korea or; (3) I have received Imminent Danger or Hostile Fire Pay. I further give authority to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to verify honorable overseas service entitling me to membership.

Applicant's Signature

date

Recruiter's Name and Membership Number

Quartermaster's Signature and Membership Number



NO ONE DOES MORE **FOR VETERANS.**[®]

Start enjoying the benefits and camaraderie of belonging to a group of veterans who have earned their membership through service to our country. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has thousands of Posts across the nation and plenty of ways for you to get involved in a way that suits you best. Start making friends and contacts who understand where you've been and can help you get to where you want to go. You've earned this right - join the VFW today!

You can join the VFW if you...

- are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national
- have served honorably or are currently serving in the US Armed Forces
- received a campaign or service medal for overseas service
- served at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea anytime since 1949
- received Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay

Visit [vfw.org/Join](https://www.vfw.org/Join) for a complete list of eligibility.

You've earned it.

As a VFW member, you'll enjoy the benefits of belonging to America's largest combat veterans' organization.

- *A subscription to VFW magazine*
- *Discounts and special offers from a wide range of businesses*
- *No-cost personal accident insurance*
- *Veterans' advocates that can assist with VA claims and other benefits*



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
1.888.JOIN.VFW
membership@vfw.org