

## Membership

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MATTHEW “FRITZ” MIHELICIC!**

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS:**

The Triple Crown Pin is awarded to those who have made All-American Commander at the Department, District and Post level.

Donald Barnes – Dept. of Arkansas  
David Bramlett – Dept. of Arkansas  
Terry Callahan – Dept. of Arkansas  
William Rickards – Dept. of Delaware  
Jeff Leffler – Dept. of Europe  
Richard Attaway – Dept. of Georgia  
Elvin Bass – Dept. of Louisiana  
Thomas Rollins – Dept. of Mississippi  
Gilbert Hernandez – Dept. of Nevada  
George Carroll – Dept. of Oregon  
Kenneth Stein – Dept. of Pacific Areas  
Rhett Webber – Dept. of Pacific Areas  
Daniel Boyer – Dept. of Virginia  
Melvin Goddard – Dept. of West Virginia  
David Moske – Dept. of West Virginia

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020-21 ALL-AMERICANS!**

Thank you for all your hard work and a job well done!

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

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

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

The 2021-22 Membership Program is available online at [vfw.org](http://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.

## **POST DEVELOPMENT**

As of this writing there is an excitement in the air here at the National Headquarters and all Departments are busy with a flurry of activity getting ready for the 122nd VFW Convention! This is exactly the kind of excitement I hope all new Department Membership Chairs have for the new membership year! Do you have a copy of the latest New Post Development & Revitalization Manual?! If not, what are you waiting for?! Jump on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and order a new guide with the Membership Material Order Form.

Developing new Posts and revitalizing existing Posts takes research and good recruiting work. 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 until the new membership year is underway – begin planning now! If you have any questions, give me a call at 816-968-2788 or email me 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 during the pandemic. View our latest Hip-Pocket training video on Quick Renew function, 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 offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

### **Enrollment Cost:**

### **Annual Payouts:**

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

*What will your Legacy be?*

# VFW Foundation

The application entry date for this year's "Uniting to Combat Hunger" (UTCH) Matching Grant has been extended to Sept. 1, 2021. By visiting [feedingamerica.org/UTCH](https://feedingamerica.org/UTCH) and making a monetary donation to the UTCH campaign, VFW and Auxiliary members can help ensure no veteran goes hungry. In addition, your Post may also qualify to receive funding through the UTCH Matching Grant! These grant funds may be used by your Post or Auxiliary wherever the need is greatest. Grant application details are included in a PDF file that can be found [here](#).

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

# Development

**VFW 2022 Special Edition Calendar** – The exclusive 2022 VFW Calendar package was mailed the first week of July. We hope you have received it and are pleased with the special Fly the Flag calendar along with the Songbird calendar.

Please show your pride in our country and your fellow veterans by displaying your calendar in a prominent place in your home, office or Post. Your calendars are filled with patriotic images and beautiful song birds, they also contain information on VFW programs available for veterans, service members and their families as well as patriotic holidays and observances. Please remember to display the U.S. flag. You can visit [heroes.vfw.org/Flag](https://heroes.vfw.org/Flag) to download and print a free flag poster to display.

If you haven't already, please send the most generous gift you can. Your support of the 2022 VFW Calendar program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout 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](https://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 Matthew "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!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

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/products/GP238](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP238).

**NEW SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD PROGRAM.** Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects an elementary, middle or high school teacher to receive the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher awards. Teacher Award Chairman

must submit one candidate for these awards 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 Department with the completed Entry form.

VFW’s Department Citizenship Education Teacher award includes a 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 will be up on the VFW website in the near future.**

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.

**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, SEPTEMBER 11.** Per Presidential Proclamation, September 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, SEPTEMBER 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).

**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 have been chosen by Commander-in-Chief Matthew “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.

**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.

**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

Whether you're in town for a weekend staycation 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.”

**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 Veterans Service

### **National Veterans Service to Resume In-Person Skill Level Training Conferences This Fall**

National Veterans Service is continuing to plan for its in-person training conferences this fall for VFW accredited representatives. Based on current CDC guidance, VFW will ensure that proper safety protocols are in place during the conference.

NVS is currently scheduled to hold three training conferences this fall, all of which will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis, MD. From Sept. 19-23, 2021, NVS will host Advanced Skill Level Training, which is intended for accredited representatives with five or more years of experience.

Additionally, NVS will host Basic Training from Sept. 19-24, 2021, which is intended for newly accredited representatives.

Finally, from Nov. 14-19, 2021, NVS will host Intermediate Skill Level Training, which is intended for accredited representatives who have completed Basic Training but have less than five years of experience.

Formal notification to students who are required to participate in these conferences were sent prior to VFW National Convention and students are making arrangements to attend.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### **August Recess – Your Congressional Members at Home**

Congress is in recess for the month of August, which means your congressional members will be back in their home states. This is a good opportunity for VFW members to contact and visit their district/state offices, or participate in town hall meetings and focus attention on the VFW's [legislative priorities](#). Familiarize yourself with the VFW's stance on topics including women veterans, toxic exposure, transition assistance, education and employment, concurrent receipt and retirement compensation. Make sure your [senators](#) and [representatives](#) know what they need to do to meet the needs of our service members, veterans, and their families. Help us hold Congress accountable to the VFW's legislative priorities!

## Administrative Operations

### **2021-22 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee Guides**

The newly revised 2021-22 Commander, Quartermaster and Trustee guides are now available online. You can access the guides behind the member's "LOGIN" at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), then navigate to My VFW, VFW Training & Support and Member & Officer Training. The full guides are located in their respective section under "Elected and Appointed Officer-Specific Materials." These guides are a great resource for elected and appointed officers at every level of the organization to assist you in your roles and ensure our continued success.

# VFW Store

Check out VFW Store's new items: Caps, polos, accessories and more! Go to [vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems](http://vfwstore.org/category/more/newitems) to browse or look for your new catalog in the mail!

1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 122nd National Convention and will be accorded the recognition due them:

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Timothy M. Borland, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Duane T. Sarmiento, Post 5579, Gibbstown, New Jersey

Quartermaster General

Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Chaplain

Dr. Harold C. Sayles, Post 10654, Richmond, Virginia

Judge Advocate General

Ronald "Ron" Rusakiewicz, Post 9460, Stratford, Connecticut

Surgeon General

Dennis G. Guthrie, Post 4108, Redmond, Oregon

National Council of Administration Members

Alabama	George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama
Alaska	Johnathon "J.R." Hackett, Post 9365, Wasilla, Alaska
Arizona	Lewis E. "Gene" Wood, Post 9400, Sunnyslope, Arizona
Arkansas	Ashley A. Little, Post 4548, Jacksonville, Arkansas
California	Dale E. Smith, Post 3783, Ramona, California
Colorado	David L. Stone, Post 3917, Security, Colorado
Connecticut	David G. Greene, Post 10004, Jewett City, Connecticut
Delaware	John G. Mitchell, Post 7234, Ocean View, Delaware
Europe	Peter J. Mascetti, Jr., Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany
Florida	W. Benny Bachand, Post 4287, Orlando, Florida
Georgia	Alfred J. "Al" Lipphardt, Post 12002, North Fulton, Georgia
Hawaii	Norbert K. Enos, Post 2875, Honolulu, Hawaii
Idaho	Rockey A. Davis, Post 10043, Lewiston, Idaho
Illinois	Philip L. "Phil" Maughan, Post 3873, Naperville, Illinois
Indiana	Johnny R. Capps, Post 972, Terre Haute, Indiana
Iowa	Carol L. Whitmore, Post 9127, Des Moines, Iowa
Kansas	Patrick M. Briggs, Post 3111, Great Bend, Kansas
Kentucky	Robert O. "Bob" Hendrickson, Post 8639, Okolona, Kentucky
Louisiana	Gerald G. "Snake" Dugas, Post 3121, Gretna, Louisiana
Maine	Steven J. "Steve" SanPedro, Post 6859, Portland, Maine

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

**WASHINGTON OFFICE**

Maryland	Denise E. Perry, Post 6054, Aberdeen, Maryland
Massachusetts	Eric Segundo, Post 3236, Ludlow, Massachusetts
Michigan	Gerald J. “Jerry” Gorski, Post 2645, Southfield, Michigan
Minnesota	Thomas L. “Tom” Hanson, Post 1639, Willmar, Minnesota
Mississippi	Steven M. “Steve” Organ, Post 5395, Pontotoc, Mississippi
Missouri	Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri
Montana	Jack A. Hawley, Post 1087, Great Falls, Montana
Nebraska	Larry M. Gerlt, Post 2704, South Omaha, Nebraska
Nevada	Gerald L. “Jerry” Peterson, Post 12101, Las Vegas, Nevada
New Hampshire	Joseph K. “Joe” Clark, Post 816, Littleton, New Hampshire
New Jersey	William F. “Bill” Thomson, Post 6192, Washington Township, New Jersey
New Mexico	Lenwood P. “Len” Hampton, Post 6917, Las Cruces, New Mexico
New York	Eugene J. “Gene” Ratigliano, Post 420, Saratoga Springs, New York
North Carolina	Gregory A. “Greg” Stafford, Post 6060, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
North Dakota	William L. “Bill” Tuff, Post 7564, West Fargo, North Dakota
Ohio	Christopher W. “Chris” Haynes, Post 7596, Franklin, Ohio
Oklahoma	Robert A. “Robbie” Clark, Post 4876, Altus, Oklahoma
Oregon	John R. Wrinkle, Post 4108, Redmond, Oregon
Pacific Areas	Peter A. Callaghan, Post 3457, Saipan, Cnmi
Pennsylvania	Glenn R. Umburger, Jr., Post 7155, Trappe, Pennsylvania
Rhode Island	(TBD)
South Carolina	Augustus “Gus” Singleton, Post 4262, Columbia, South Carolina
South Dakota	Rick L. Williamson, Post 3164, Canton, South Dakota
Tennessee	Henry Hooper, II, Post 11333, Memphis, Tennessee
Texas	Daniel L. “Dan” West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas
Utah	Dennis L. Parizek, Post 1481, Ogden, Utah
Vermont	Charles A. Magnant, Post 778, Swanton, Vermont
Virginia	Thomas F. “Tom” Gimble, Post 1503, Dale City, Virginia
Washington	Frederick A. “Fred” Green, Post 9430, Seattle, Washington
West Virginia	Todd C. Kingsbury, Post 3522, Charles Town, West Virginia
Wisconsin	Gundel “Gundy” Metz, Post 1318, Madison, Wisconsin
Wyoming	Rodney A. Birkle, Post 3558, Wheatland, Wyoming

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General

Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office

Vincent B.J. Lawrence, Post 7686, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs

Daniel L. “Dan” West, Post 3413, San Marcos, Texas

Chief of Staff

Matt Claussen, Post 2378, North Riverside, Illinois

Inspector General

Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631, Concord, New Hampshire

Sergeant-at-Arms

Brian Willette, Post 3104, South Hadley, MA

General Counsel

John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administrative Operations

Johnathan R. Duncan, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington Office

Robert Couture, Department of Maryland Member-at-Large

Director, Member Services

David E. Prohaska, Post 4434, Belleville, Michigan

Director, Membership

Rick L. Butler, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, National Legislative Service

Patrick D. Murray, Post 152, North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Director, National Veterans Service

Ryan M. Gallucci, Post 3150, Arlington, Virginia

Director, Operations

Robert H. Jackson, Post 2725, Frankenmuth, Michigan

Director, VFW Programs

Lynn W. Rolf, III, Post 56, Leavenworth, Kansas

5. Attention of all members is directed to the purposes listed within the VFW's Congressional Charter. "To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom" is one of the VFW's chartered purposes; as such the VFW represents fighting for American rights, civil rights and humanitarian impulses that have always guided the VFW's principles.

Today the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States reaffirms its commitment to that chartered purpose by first recognizing that in order to end racism within our organization, it is not enough to be non-racist/non-discriminatory: we must be proactive. While we focus on education and mentorship we work to identify, address, and eradicate any and all forms of racial bias and discrimination. We will work to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization. The VFW's leadership is united in the pursuit to end racial bias and discrimination while empowering our members and the greater veteran community towards this collective goal.

6. Attention of all members is directed to Section 901 of the National Bylaws, "Discipline of Members." Members who have committed offenses recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States may be subject to disciplinary action. Members are reminded that acts of Sexual Harassment, Racial or Sexual Discrimination, and all other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or conduct determined to be unbecoming of a member will not be condoned. In general, harassment and discrimination consists of any form of verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe and/or pervasive enough to have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment or otherwise interfering with another's ability to participate in VFW events. All members will be treated with dignity and respect.



7. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.

8. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2021-22 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, "Buddy"<sup>®</sup> Poppy and Veterans and Military Support Programs. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

9. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

10. DEPARTMENT DUES RESERVE: Due to the passage of Bylaw Amendment B-38 at the 119th National Convention, it is no longer necessary for Departments to maintain a dues reserve fund effective August 24, 2018.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to Section 703 of the National Bylaws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.

12. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees' Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. **Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.**

13. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

14. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see Section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

15. The Manual of Procedure amendment passed by the 119th National Convention modified Section 1001(25) to read, "The dispensation and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of smoking/vaping products in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings are prohibited."

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department Bylaws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to

inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

17. U.S. Army ARDEC has issued guidance on the operation and maintenance of the M1 Garand. The manual can be found in the VFW Training & Support section at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) or you can visit the M1 Garand Associated Website: [m1garandtraining.com](http://m1garandtraining.com).

18. The distribution of VFW “Buddy”<sup>®</sup> Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Sections 711 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Department, District, County Council and Post Commanders should arrange now for the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies in their respective areas. All profits accruing from the distribution of “Buddy” Poppies shall be used in accordance with Section 704 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure.

19. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

Post Nos. 12173 and 316 consolidated as Post No. 12173, Tuckerton, New Jersey  
Post Nos. 1000 and 1738 consolidated as Post No. 1000, Independence, Missouri  
Post Nos. 707 and 6940 consolidated as Post No. 707, Mandan, North Dakota  
Post Nos. 8180 and 12147 consolidated as Post No. 8180, Songtan-Si, Korea  
Post Nos. 4168 and 3287 consolidated as Post No. 4168, Clinton, Illinois  
Post Nos. 1603 and 9150 consolidated as Post No. 1603, Lewiston-Auburn, Maine  
Post Nos. 549 and 10188 consolidated as Post No. 549, Tucson, Arizona  
Post Nos. 6856 and 4186 consolidated as Post No. 6856, Milltown, Wisconsin

20. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charters for the following Posts:

Post No. 12204 – Niceville, Florida  
Post No. 12205 – Bulverde, Texas  
Post No. 12206 – Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
Post No. 12207 – Boiling Springs, South Carolina

BY COMMAND OF  
FRITZ MIHELIC  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Kevin C. Jones  
Adjutant General



## PLANNING CALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. August 2021



#### 2021

- September 12 - 16 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting and National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO
- September 19 - 23 Accredited Service Officer Advanced Skill Level Training  
Annapolis, MD
- September 19 - 24 Accredited Service Officer Basic, Part 1 Initial Training  
Annapolis, MD
- October 7 - 10 Junior Vice Commanders & New Adjutants-Quartermasters Only  
Kansas City, MO**
- October 15 - 17 Big Ten Conference  
Rapid City, SD
- October 29 - 31 Eastern Conference  
Ocean City, MD
- November 4 - 7 Western Conference  
Reno, NV
- November 14 - 19 Accredited Service Officer Intermediate Skill Level Training  
Annapolis, MD
- November 18 - 21 Southern Conference  
Hilton Head Island, SC

#### 2022

- February 27 - March 3 Legislative Conference  
Washington, DC
- April 28 - May 1 Senior Vice Commanders & All Adjutants-Quartermasters  
Kansas City, MO**
- July 16 - 21 National Convention  
Kansas City, MO
- August 19 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

#### **NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

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406 W. 34th Street Office 816.756.3390  
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200 Maryland Ave., N.E. Office 202.543.2239  
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August 20 - 21 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 12 - 15 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC

November 4 - 6 Eastern Conference  
Manchester, NH

**2023**

July 22 - 27 National Convention  
Phoenix, AZ

August 25 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

August 26 - 27 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 11 - 14 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC

**2024**

July 27 - August 1 National Convention  
Louisville, KY

September 6 National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 7 - 8 National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 9 - 12 Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
Washington, DC

**2025**

August 9 - 14 National Convention  
Columbus, OH

**2026**

August 15 - 20 National Convention  
Salt Lake City, UT