

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a fireworks display at night. A large, bright firework is exploding in the center, creating a cascade of golden sparks and light trails. In the background, the stars and stripes of the American flag are visible, slightly out of focus. The overall color palette is dominated by the red, white, and blue of the flag, and the warm, golden-yellow of the fireworks.

# VFW

POST 4575

JULY 2025

# Table of Contents

**03**

POST OFFICERS

**12-13**

FLAG FUND

**04**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

**14-21**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**05**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**22-35**

NATIONAL  
HEADQUARTERS  
BULLETIN

**06**

OUR NEW MEMBERS

**07-11**

GREAT TN AIR SHOW

# VFW Post 4575 Officers

## **Commander**

Carlos T. Rawls Sr.

## **Sr. Vice Commander**

Keith R. Prather

## **Jr. Vice Commander**

TK Kast

## **Quartermaster**

Jerry Stewart

## **Chaplain**

James Long

## **Adjutant**

Beth Sharp

## **Judge Advocate**

James L. Mann

## **Surgeon**

Richard L. Adcock



## **3 Year Trustee**

Ross List

## **2 Year Trustee**

Bruce Rogan

## **1 Year Trustee**

Brian Morris

## **Service Officer**

JoAnna Johnson



## **Commander's Corner**

Greeting Comrades.

The Election of officers for the 2025-2026 VFW year is over. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Post for having faith in me to handle the operations of the Post. Commander is a very big responsibility, and I take it very seriously. I will do my best to ensure that our Post runs as smoothly as possible and that all the goals of Veterans of Foreign Wars are met, as well as providing support not only for our Veterans, but also their families and the community. I look forward to having a great year!

Post Commander, Carlos T. Rawls Sr.



## Chaplain's Corner

**“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.” – Ronald Reagan**

July is a month that echoes with fireworks, flags, and celebration. The 4th of July reminds our nation of its birth, its freedom, and its promise. But for many of us who have worn the uniform, this celebration carries a deeper weight. We've seen the cost of liberty. We've buried friends. We've felt the cold silence after the battle ends. And we know—freedom isn't free.

In a time when the world feels uncertain—where headlines speak of wars, divisions, and unrest—it's easy to feel discouraged. But it's in times like these that our role as veterans becomes even more vital. We are not just warriors—we are guardians of memory, of values, and of truth. We know what it means to stand the line, to carry the load, and to hold fast when others falter.

This July, let's do more than wave the flag—let's live its meaning. Let's be men and women of integrity in a world of compromise. Let's show strength through compassion, resolve through faith, and hope through action. Let's reach out to our fellow veterans who may be struggling in silence and remind them that their service still matters—and so do they.

And above all, let us pray—not just for peace, but for courage. Courage to lead, to love, and to stand for what is right even when it's hard.

**“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.” – John 15:13 (NIV)**

May God bless each of you, and may He continue to bless the United States of America—land of the free, because of the brave.

— James Long  
Chaplain, VFW Post 4575





## New Members

### JANUARY 2025

New Member Mario Ahumada  
New Life Member James Long  
New Transfer Leonard Cartwright

### FEBRUARY 2025

New Transfer James Mann

### APRIL 2025

New Transfer Richie Adcock  
New Member Nathaniel Foust  
New Transfer Robert Espinoza

### MAY 2025

New Member Brent Bush

### JUNE 2025

New Member Andrew Harvey  
New Member Gavin Ross  
Upgrade to Life Membership Brent Bush,  
Richie Adcock  
Upgrade to Legacy Silver Life Jerry Stewart



**VFW POST  
4575**



# 2025 GREAT TN AIR SHOW

The Great Tennessee Air Show was a great success in more ways than one! See additional pages for more photos and money raised for the post!





TIFFANY CHILDERS, JERRY  
STEWART, STEPHEN JENSEN

# Makin' Money

STEPHEN JENSEN

A total of \$7957.17 was made for Post 4575 in two days between the Beer Tent and Merchandise Tent.

Special THANK YOU to those who showed up in the heat and volunteered their time:

Carlos Rawls and Family  
Beth Sharp  
Ross List  
Stephen Jensen  
Andrew Harvey  
Richie Adcock  
Gavin Ross  
George Millet  
Larry Post  
Tharrel Kast  
Tiffany Childers and son Max







THE FAMOUS T-33A SHOOTING STAR KNOWN AS THE RED KNIGHT HAS BEEN THRILLING CROWDS FOR DECADES AT AIR SHOWS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.

For 2025, owner Chris Rounds will continue that tradition with The Red Knight updated with a patriotic twist by adding new white lettering to the fuselage.

Rounds, a seasoned pilot, Aircraft and Powerplant (A&P) Certified mechanic and aircraft restoration expert is booking air show appearances, special event flyovers and static displays for the 2025 season and beyond. "The update isn't political, but more of a statement on my outlook toward the future of air shows and aviation," he said in a recent interview. He also flies other classic jets for museums and aircraft owners to keep them active and airworthy.

---Vintage Aviation News March 2025



Jerry Stewart, Jennifer Wieland, Richie, >>>, Carlos Rawls, Ross List, John Iaccheri



## Ice cold beer was very popular!

Word has it that beer was procured from other tents in order to supply the Post 4575 tent because it was so popular!



Manning the beer tent: Stephen Jensen, Ross List, Andrew Harvey and Carlos Rawls

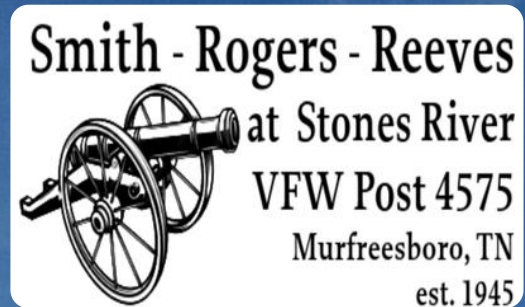




**Beth Sharp  
Souvenir  
Tent**







# Flag Fund

LOOK WHOSE  
FLAG IS FLYING  
FOR JULY!!



# Donate for the Battle of the Branches Flag Fund!



Donate to our flag fund select your branch to and the branch with the most money raised in a month will have it's flag flying on the flag pole at the South Church Street Center here in Murfreesboro, TN.

By donating to our flag fund you are helping us replace the old flags around Murfreesboro with new ones. Our focus in on Veterans and Veteran owned business. Please consider giving monthly to this great cause.

You can donate one time or monthly with the link above!  
You'll receive a tax receipt for making a donation.



Whose flag will fly next month??





# Upcoming Events

**#STILLSERVING**





July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Celebration at the  
TN Veterans  
Home,  
Murfreesboro

2:00 pm  
Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Cookout, music fireworks, fun!



# Tiki 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bash 2025



200 Glenrose Lane  
Smyrna, TN

Friday at 1600

Food, drinks, music, bocce ball, corn hole, slip and slide, fireworks!



## Anniversary of the Tristar Veteran Resource Center

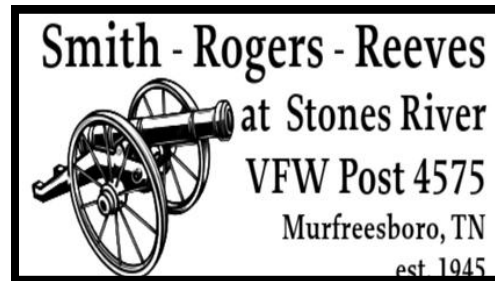
12 July  
1100-1300  
at  
439 Rice Street  
Murfreesboro, TN  
(Tristar Veterans Resource  
Center)



TRI-STAR VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (TSVRC) focuses on creating fellowship opportunities for Veterans by providing gathering spaces for Veteran organizations, facilitating Veteran community engagement, and increasing communications between Veteran Service Organizations and the Rutherford County community.



**VFW 4575 Post Meeting  
21 July at 1830  
Hero's Den**



**MTSU Graduating Veterans Stole  
Ceremony**

**7 August at 1000  
Miller Education Center**

**126<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
9-13 August  
Columbus, OH**



**Council of Administration 2025-2026**

**11 October**

**VFW Post 8422**

**10157 Old Nashville Hwy Smyrna, TN**

**MTSU Veterans Day Salute Game**

**8 November 2025**





TRAVIS MANION  
FOUNDATION

“IF NOT ME, THEN WHO...”

# 9 11 HEROES RUN



**5K RUN/WALK/RUCK**  
**1-MILE RUN/WALK**  
**Murfreesboro Civic Plaza**  
**Saturday, Sept 13 @ 8:00 AM**

NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR



**SMALL BUSINESS  
INSURANCE**

Learn more: [usaa.com/smallbusiness](https://usaa.com/smallbusiness)



SCAN TO REGISTER TODAY OR VISIT  
**[911HeroesRun.org/murfreesboro](https://911HeroesRun.org/murfreesboro)**





#911HEROESRUN

## HONOR THE SERVICE & SACRIFICE OF OUR FIRST RESPONDER & MILITARY HEROES

The attacks on September 11th, 2001, changed our country forever, and the heroes who stepped up on that day and in the wars that followed must never be forgotten.

Each year, the 9/11 Heroes Run helps uphold our promise to never forget. Events held in over 90 communities nationwide unite more than 60,000 veterans, families of fallen heroes, and inspired civilians to honor and remember the heroes of September 11th. Participants of all ages and fitness levels come together to pay tribute to the brave Americans who stepped up when our country needed them, ensuring that future generations understand the significance of their sacrifices.

All proceeds support Travis Manion Foundation's mission to empower veterans and families of the fallen to develop character in future generations. **Join your community at an event near you.**



TRAVIS MANION  
FOUNDATION

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT  
**911HeroesRun.org/murfreesboro**



# VFW AUXILLIARY 4575

18<sup>th</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Veterans event sponsored by VFW Auxilliary 4575 at Buddha's Tiki Bar and Lounge--AKA Jim Africano's house. 200 Glenrose Ln Smyrna, TN

July 7<sup>th</sup> Monthly Auxilliary meeting 5:30 pm at Hero's Den

July 24<sup>th</sup> Veterans Night Out at Hero's Den 5-7pm

July 26 Inaugural Veterans 4x4 Event at Hop Springs 1-5pm  
(hosted by VFW Auxilliary 4575)



# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 49, NO. 11

JUNE 2020

## Membership

For the month of June 2020, the Post that leads each division will receive a Veterans of Foreign Wars Eligibility Ribbon Shadow Box. This case is suitable for display at the Post, or at recruiting events to show the campaign medals and badges that qualify a veteran for VFW membership. In addition, at the end of the year every Post who has led their division in the monthly challenges will be featured on a video display at the National Convention to recognize their achievements.

Keep it up and we will show everyone how NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS!

This contest will run from June 1 through June 30, 2020. Applications and payments processed online before the close of business will be credited that day; payments and applications made through the mail will be processed when received. Questions about this or other membership programs can be sent to [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

As a reminder, every month we will award points to our Posts as follows:

- Recruit a new annual member into the Post: 1 point
- An annual or lapsed member converts to Life: 5 points
- Recruit a new Life Member into the Post: 10 points

### MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

Do you want to help your Post meet your membership goals? Log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and go to <https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/membership-recruiting-and-retention> where you can view training videos, download recruiting materials and posters, and gain access to all the tools you need in order to help recruit, retain, and mentor your members!

### MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Keep in mind the membership requirements set out by the Commander-in-Chief:

- Achieve 100% in Membership
- For everyone to recruit at least one new member and then mentor that member.
- Increase membership drives and/or events.
- Develop new Posts and/or revitalize existing Posts.
- Increase Life Membership and Legacy Life Membership.

### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP MATERIAL ORDER FORM

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

1. Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and click the login link in the upper right corner. Sign in when prompted.
2. Under "Membership QuickLinks," select Membership Online Order Form.
3. Use the dropdown list to indicate items you need. The form will automatically calculate the cost of items and shipping. When finished, click SUBMIT and it will take you to a billing page if there are any charges. Follow these simple steps and if you have any questions, you may contact the Membership department at 1.888.564.6839 or email us at [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

#### UPCOMING TRAINING

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Our next Membership Monday training webinar will be on June 14th, at 2:00 PM, Central time. We will be hosting a Year-End Round-Up to provide best practices for meetings and surpassing membership goals at the end of the membership year approaches. Follow us on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/VFWMembership> to learn how to attend this online training.

#### 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.

<u>Enrollment Cost:</u>		<u>Annual Payouts:</u>	
Levels	Posts	Departments	National
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?

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOP RECRUITERS!

Top Three Recruiters as of 30 June 2020

Timothy M. Borland – 932 members

VFW Post 9972, Dept of AZ

Michael D. Boll – 328 members

VFW Post 2433, Dept of NJ

Ed Stefanak, Jr. – 290 members

VFW Post 9039, Dept of SC

These comrades are leading the charge for membership growth – will you take up the challenge and see your name on this list?



# VFW Foundation

The VFW Foundation welcomed three new team members on Monday, May 12, 2020

1. Anthony Tony Lowe, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations. Many of you may already know Tony from his previous roles at the VFW DC office and, more recently, as a consultant to the VFW Foundation.

2. Savanna Cavanaugh, Corporate Relations Manager.

3. Mario Garcia III, Corporate Relations Manager.

We also kindly ask VFW members to always be on the lookout for potential business relationships. If you know of a patriotic company that might want to sponsor VFW programs or services, please direct them to Tony Lowe, Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations, at 816.968.2766 or [tlowe@vfw.org](mailto:tlowe@vfw.org).

Contact: Richard Freiburghouse, VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations at [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

# VFW National Convention

## VFW NATIONAL CONVENTION HOUSING UPDATE

Guestroom availability at our contracted hotels for the Convention is currently very limited. At this time, full-convention stays are not available. However, if you only need accommodations for a few nights, we recommend checking availability within those hotels, as partial stays may still be possible. Overflow hotels are being secured, and details will be posted soon. Please continue to check the Convention website at [vfw.org/convention](http://vfw.org/convention) for the most up-to-date housing information. For any questions regarding guestroom availability, please contact [housing@experiencecolumbus.com](mailto:housing@experiencecolumbus.com)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to the VFW National Headquarters, 416 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. ATTN: Convention Registration. Quartermasters are strongly encouraged to register delegates utilizing the on-line membership system (OMS).

# Development

Here is some helpful information about why the support of every VFW member is vitally important. VFW's life-changing programs are not possible through membership dues alone. In fact, membership dues alone cover just 18% of the cost of programs. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW relies heavily on the generosity of its members and patriotic supporters. When members donate, 100% of their net donation goes directly back to support their Department. Please spread the word and give as generously as you are able.

Independence Day is Coming Up – The VFW is preparing for a special online celebration of freedom with our annual observance of Independence Day. Please visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) to find ways you can honor our nation's veterans and service members by spreading a message of patriotism and remembrance to your friends and family.

July Matching Gift Campaign – Also coming up next month, good friends of the VFW are extending an offer to triple your donation. By sending back one of the vouchers included in your package, your generosity will help fellow protectors get the vital support they need — times three!

Donor Advised Funds Benefit You and America's Veterans – You can make an impact now and after your lifetime by supporting the VFW. A donor advised fund (DAF) is a charitable savings account that allows you income tax charitable deductions and doesn't incur capital gains taxes. Name the VFW as your beneficiary and you'll be creating opportunities and support for America's veterans for years to come. Learn how you can make a difference: <https://vfw.planmylegacy.org/daf-power>. Let us know if we can help you plan a gift by contacting the VFW Major Gifts Office at 816.820.9768 or [vfwmajorgifts@vfw.org](mailto:vfwmajorgifts@vfw.org).

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Adjutant General Dan West would like you to join him in supporting the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families. The VFW has an option that allows you to support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly or yearly basis, which helps reduce expenses and eliminates the amount of fundraising mail you receive. 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 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. 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 toll-free 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!


VFW Department Resource Page – We encourage all VFW Departments to actively support the VFW Department Fundraising Programs. The success of these initiatives relies on the participation and backing of your department's members. Promotional materials can be accessed by visiting [heroes.vfw.org/VFWT](http://heroes.vfw.org/VFWT).

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## Marketing Communications

VFW Marketing Resources at Your Fingertips.

Summer is one of the busiest times of year for the VFW, and that's why the VFW has promotional toolkits and resources in the Communications & Public Affairs section of Training & Support behind the member login.

Whether you need resources to better cultivate your Post's social media presence, or promotional materials for PACTActInfo.org, the  StillServing Day of Service campaigns, or the 120th Anniversary that wraps up in August, the Training & Support section is where you'll find everything from logo guidance and radio spots to posters and suggested social media posts, and so much more! Log in and start using these helpful tools today!

## Veterans & Military Support Programs

### All American Eligibility

To qualify for All-American, a minimum donation of \$125 must be donated to VMS by June 30, 2025. VMS donations will only be handled through the Dashboard. All Posts must click on the "VMS Donation" tab on the Dashboard to donate. The link will point them to OMS. Please do not send checks to the National Headquarters. If a Post does not use a credit card, the Post will send their donation to their Department and the Department HQs will submit the donation for their Post. Credit will automatically update on the Dashboard daily. Overseas Departments will donate to the other programs through the link also in lieu of participation. This will automatically update daily. When you make your \$125.00 or more donation, all that needs to be entered into the box is 125 or more. The \$ and .00 are not required in the donation amount box.

Do not use the donate link in the upper right-hand corner of this webpage. This is for general donation purposes only.

121st National Convention – Columbus, OH

As we plan for the 2025 National Convention, there is a new design for the VMS Lapel Pins for the 2025-26 Program year! ADJs/QMs will be able to pre-order their pins and will be able to pick them up at convention again this year. Notification and order forms have been emailed and provided. Payment can be made prior to July 1, 2025. Please use the VMS Donation link on the Dashboard to pay for your order after July 1, 2025, for the 2025-26 Program year.

VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members

The VFW Unmet Needs Program will now be called VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Mark Herron at [mherron@vfw.org](mailto:mherron@vfw.org) or 816.968.1102.

### Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds

The Military Assistance Program (MAP) is now being named as the Military Appreciation Program (MAP), effective immediately.

The

VFW MAP Grant is closed for the 2024-25 program year. The 2024-25 MAP Grant funds have been depleted. Any events held after the closure of the MAP grant will not be reimbursed with the 2025-26 fund



## VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"

The 2020 Fall Semester is now closed. The 2021 Spring Semester will open Aug. 1, 2020. The application will be available online only at [vfw.org/Scholarship](https://www.vfw.org/Scholarship).

## VMS Program Tools

The Veterans & Military Support (VMS) Program Tools webpage is updated every month. Link to the webpage is <https://www.vfw.org/VMSPTools>

Continue to do what you are doing and thank you for your support!

## VFW Programs

**DISPLAYING MILITARY SERVICE SYMBOLS.** Military service flags, insignias, etc. should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and then Coast Guard. For military flags, go to [vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag](https://vfwstore.org/searchresults?q=MilitaryFlag)

**PROGRAMS DASHBOARD TOOL.** Please encourage Posts to read the VFW National Membership Program 2020-2021. Military Appreciation Program grants have been launched to show Departments and Posts how much grant assistance has been received from National HQs to supplement the Financial Assistance Service Members grants and the VFW Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship statistic. The information charts reside in the KPI tools section.

**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 Chairperson's Guide or contact Mary at 816.756.3390, ext. 6287 in the VFW Programs department for a nomination form.

**VFW 22nd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION.** It is time again to check out the variety of great items that are donated by our VFW Departments. You will be able to view and bid on these items as they are received. The bidding begins at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, August 4th, and goes on until Monday, August 11th, at 2 p.m. when the bidding ends. Winners may pay for their items at 2:00 p.m., Monday at a specific register at the VFW Store until 4:00 p.m. For those winners unavailable Monday, may pay on Tuesday, August 12th, beginning at 8:00 a.m., until NOON (12:00 p.m.), when the exhibit hall closes. Items not paid and picked up after this time will be returned to VFW National Headquarters and dispersed from there. Winning bidders are contacted for a shipping address and shipping costs will be applied to their bid. If we are unable to contact that person, the item will be offered to the next highest bidder.

**VFW HONOR'S AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2020-2021 PROGRAM YEAR.** Congratulations to the following teachers who were selected National winners for 2020-2021:

Elementary School level – Tim Smiddy, Staunton Elementary School, Staunton, Illinois, selected by VFW Post 1241, Staunton, Illinois.

Middle School level – Christie Wingo, Colorado Springs Christian School, Colorado Springs, Colorado, selected by VFW Post 7829, Monument, Colorado.

High School level – Rebecca Byrd, Sevier County High School, Sevierville, Tennessee, selected by VFW Post 12199, Sevierville, Tennessee.

National awards will be presented in August to each teacher during the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Each of the winners will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the National Convention and a \$1,000 cash award for professional development expenses (winners will receive a 1099-MISC); \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and his or her school. Each Department's recipients and their schools will receive a National Commendation citation, which will be sent to the Department Headquarters prior to the National Convention for presentation.

**OUTSTANDING NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD.** Each year on July 1, the National Programs office will determine the top community service Posts in each conference, based on their community service reporting and total impact, from July 1 to June 30 of the previous year. Your total impact of community service is figured by the money spent to host and organize the community service event, plus total hours all volunteers participated, plus the mileage for all volunteers (Dollars Donated + Hours + Miles = Total Impact).

These four Posts will be awarded the Award for Community Service and will be invited to attend the VFW National Convention. The Post Commander (or designated representative) and a guest will receive round-trip airfare, hotel accommodations for five nights, and a \$599 stipend to receive the award at the VFW National Convention.

**NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE POST OF THE YEAR.** Each Department will have an NCSP winner based on total impact also. National will select based on end of year reports on July 1. Winners will also be published in the Convention program booklet and receive a street sign identifying this national award for the Post to put up in their community.

**IT'S SCHOLARSHIP TIME!** It is the perfect time to contact 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 a VFW Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please email [Jlinstra@vfw.org](mailto:Jlinstra@vfw.org) or call 816.968.1100.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN THEMES.** The 2020-21 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen theme will be "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?"

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT'S PEN ENTRY FORMS.** The new 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entry forms are now available on the VFW website.

**FLAG DAY, JUNE 14.** All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Saturday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (Product No. 4380) for those who have daily displayed our national flag.

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 in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day due to terrorist attacks on the United States. For flags and other patriotic items, click here

[vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic](http://vfwstore.org/category/patriotic/miscpatriotic).

"UPDATED" POW/MIA FLAG -- OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS. Under previous Public Law 105-180 (Nov. 16, 1997), it indicated there were only six days that federal agencies, military installations and U.S. post offices were required to display the POW/MIA flag. Now under new law, Public Law 111-67 (Nov. 7, 2009), it is required that the POW/MIA flag, on certain federal properties, be flown on all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, go to [vfwstore.org/products/GP237](http://vfwstore.org/products/GP237).  
IRS AND VFW AWARD MONIES. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any recipient that receives more than a \$599 award should receive a Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable. This will include the VFW programs Patriot's Pen and Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

## VFW Member Benefits

Benefit Program for VFW: Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+®)

EA+ empowers confident travel by providing essential medical support for unexpected vacation emergencies. Take your next trip with added peace of mind when you travel with EA+, and receive benefits such as medical assistance, emergency medical evacuation, transportation home, companion assistance, nursing and more. This added layer of protection provides extra funds when you're sick or hurt, independent of your medical insurance.

With 24/7 global support, you're always protected. Trust in EA+ to protect you during your next vacation. Discover your ideal membership that best fits you and your family's needs. Explore options and learn more at [www.emergencyassistanceplus.com/VFWEAPEnroll](http://www.emergencyassistanceplus.com/VFWEAPEnroll).

## "Buddy"® Poppy

NATIONAL "BUDDY"® POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST. The time frame for registering and setting up the Department winning Buddy Poppy displays for the national judging at convention will be the same as usual. Department winning entries will be accepted for registration and may be set up beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9, until noon, Monday, Aug. 11, 2020. Winning displays will be identified with the appropriate ribbons on Tuesday morning, August 12 and announced later, on the convention floor. Displays must be removed prior to 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Any displays left after this time will be removed for disposal by convention center personnel during the disassembly of the exhibit hall.  
"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 three (3) weeks in advance of your distribution date.

#### BUDDY POPPY POLICY AND PROCEDURES:

- 1) Departments must order poppies through OMS.
- 2) All claims of non-receipt of a Buddy Poppy order must be made within 30 days of the date of the order or will NOT be replaced free of charge.
- 3) All orders for the traditional Buddy Poppy, Anniversary Poppies or tin tab poppies must be placed through your Department Headquarters. Auxiliaries must go through their Post to order all poppies.
- 4) The tin tabs do count towards the Buddy Poppy requirement for the All-American program.
- 5) If you do not receive your order within four weeks of placing it with your department, please contact your Department Headquarters to report you have not received your order.
- 6) All poppies are shipped within 30 days of ordering except orders placed in June and July, due to preparation for National Convention, please allow an additional five business days.

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 by calling Member Service Center at 1.833.839.8387.

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 if suggestions in the chairperson's guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 511 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) 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.

**VFW ANNIVERSARY BUDDY POPPIES.** Special poppies are available to Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries. The poppies are the same design as traditional poppies but come in silver for the 25th anniversary Post, gold for the 50th anniversary Post and diamond (iridescent white) for the 75th anniversary Post. Posts currently in their 100th anniversary year can order any color and as many as they need. If not in your 100th anniversary year, please limit your order of anniversary poppies to 1,000 to ensure stock does not run out. These are ordered through the Department in OMS and processed the same as red poppies and should be distributed and used in displays just like the red poppies.

Currently we have no plans to replenish the inventory of Anniversary Poppies due to increased cost and the small quantities we sell of Anniversary Poppies. Based on the past four years' sales, we have sufficient inventory for the next 1.5 years of Gold, 1.2 years of Diamond, and 1.5 years of Silver.

## Quartermaster General

The new Stars & Stripes Society donor recognition program is in full swing. This program is designed to enrich the giving experience of those who generously contribute essential funds that support the VFW's veteran-focused initiatives. Members, non-members, corporations, organizations, or anyone desiring a lasting impression by supporting the work of this organization can participate.

Choose the level of giving you like, and you can always upgrade to the next level when the time is right for you. Visit this link today: <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/16606/action/>

## Member Service Center

The Member Service Center and Online Membership System will pause membership processing on Monday, June 30, at 1:00 p.m. CDT in preparation for the membership year-end. All membership mail received prior to 1:00 p.m. CDT (including orders faxed and phoned in) will be processed. Shortly after 1:00 p.m., we will begin the year-end processing reports. As in the past, it will require a short period of time to reconcile VFW final year-end processing reports and we will keep you posted as to when the system(s) will be returned to service.

## National Veterans Service

### VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VFW is seeking volunteers including students who are willing to make a difference in a veteran's life through the VA Voluntary Service program. Whether you can volunteer once, occasionally, or regularly your assistance and time is priceless to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and our Nation's Veterans. VFW membership is not required to participate in this program, so encourage family, friends, and community members to support veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors! See [www.vfw.org/VolunteerService](http://www.vfw.org/VolunteerService) for more information and to contact a VFW Volunteer Representative at your local VA facilities.

## National Legislative Service/Action Corps

### Take Action to Say NO to Putting Veterans in Debt

Make your voices heard by taking action TODAY. Veterans should never go into debt to access their earned benefits! The VFW has repeatedly expressed concerns about charging veterans for initial claims assistance based on their future benefits, and thus, we strongly oppose H.R. 3132, CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2020, as written. This would potentially put veterans into debt even before utilizing their benefits. [Tell your representatives](#) to vote NO when this bill is brought to the House floor for a vote.

## VFW Store

Need a new outdoor flag? As we enter the summer months, now is a good time to check your outdoor flags for signs of wear and tear. To replace your old flag, click [VFW Store outdoor U.S. flags](#) for the complete line of U.S. flags available at the VFW Store. And for booklets with information on how to care for your flags, click [VFW Store citizen education](#). Celebrate the VFW's 120 years of service! Check out the selection of memorabilia available at the VFW Store: [VFW Store 120th Anniversary](#)



## Roll Call of Departed Comrades

NESLON, NORMAN, I., All American Commander, Department of Utah, 2006-2007, and a Gold Legacy Life Member of George Gidney Post No. 1690, Brigham City, Utah, April 13, 2020.

TURK, JERRY, L., Commander, Department of Missouri, 2000-2001, and a Life Member of St. Francois County Post No. 2826, Desloge, Missouri, May 20, 2020.

PAULEY, LEON, T., Commander, Department of West Virginia, 2018-2019, and a Gold Legacy Life Member of Memorial City Post No. 3081, Grafton, West Virginia, May 20, 2020.





## General Orders No. 11

2024-25 Series

1. No Post, District, County Council, State or other unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and no officer or member has authority to grant the right to manufacture, reproduce or deal in items bearing the name, including the acronym VFW, and/or emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or colorable imitation thereof. The only authority to use the name, emblem, or any marks of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States would be by issuance of express written consent by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Headquarters. Please see the references below.

Pursuant to Title 36 U.S. Code Sections 230101-230107, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has the exclusive right to the use of its name and the sole exclusive right to the use of the emblem and badges adopted by the corporation. Additionally, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is the owner of U.S. Trademark Registration Nos. 1,670,840, 1,678,688, 1,698,241, 1,682,269 for the mark "VFW" as well as eight additional registrations including the term VFW. Finally, it is a federal offense to use the name or emblems of a federally chartered veterans' organization. See Title 18 U.S. Code Section 705.

2. Posts that have not submitted a Post Election Report Form listing the Post Officers for 2020-2021 should do so immediately for matter of record and so mailings can be made to the proper officers within the Post. Not doing so will subject the Post to actions within our National Bylaws.

3. Departments need to submit their official roster to National Headquarters immediately following their Department Convention so correspondence may be directed to the proper officers in each Department.

4. Attention is directed to the provision of Section 222 (d) of the National Bylaws, "Each Post will pay, in advance, a National Convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the National Convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee." Post Quartermasters are encouraged to register their delegates online through the Online Members System (OMS). Posts failing to comply with this provision will be considered delinquent and in arrears.

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

Post No. 9934 and 5878 consolidated as Post No. 9934, Dana Point, California

Post No. 7809 and 5318 consolidated as Post No. 7809, Ridgeland, Mississippi

BY COMMAND OF  
ALFRED J. LIPPARDT  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

  
Dan West

Adjutant General

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON OFFICE



## PLANNINGCALENDAR

### SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. June 2020

2020

June 28

VFW National Home 100th Anniversary Celebration  
Eaton Rapids, MI

August 9 - 13

National Convention  
Columbus, OH

September 8 - 11

Fall Legislative Committee  
Washington, DC

September 19

National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 20 - 21

National Council of Administration Meeting  
Kansas City, MO

September 21 - 25

NVS Accredited Representative Skill Training  
Annapolis, MD

September 21 - 26

NVS Basic Training for New Accredited Representatives  
Annapolis, MD

September 25 - 28

Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming  
Des Moines, IA

October 2 - 5

Department Adjutant/Quartermasters Training  
Kansas City, MO

October 9 - 12

Junior Vice Commanders Training  
Kansas City, MO

October 17 - 19

Big Ten Conference  
Bettendorf, IA

October 24 - 26

Eastern Conference  
Wilmington, DE

November 6 - 9

Southern Conference  
Montgomery, TX

November 6 - 9

Western Conference  
Garden City, Idaho

#### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390  
Fax 816.968.1157

#### WASHINGTON OFFICE

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Office 202.543.2239  
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org  
www.vfw.org

2026

February 28 – March 5	Washington Conference Washington, DC
April 16–19	Senior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
August 15 – 19	National Convention Salt Lake City, UT
September 11	National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 12 – 13	National Council of Administration Meeting Kansas City, MO
September 14 – 17	Fall Legislative Committee Washington, DC (Tentative)
September 24 – 27	Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming Billings, MT
October 1 – 4	Department Adjutant /Quartermasters Training Kansas City, MO
October 15 – 18	Junior Vice Commanders Training Kansas City, MO
October 15 – 18	Big Ten Conference Kalamazoo, Michigan
October 22 – 25	Southern Conference Mobile, AL
November 1 – 9	Eastern Conference Garmisch, Germany
November 5 – 8	Western Conference Phoenix, Arizona

2027

February 27 – March 4	Washington Conference Washington, DC
July 31 – August 4	National Convention Milwaukee, WI

2028

August 5 – 10	National Convention San Antonio, TX
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