

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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### *"HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES"*

#### NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

For the most current information on NMS programs, please visit [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org). Consider providing a link on your department website for VFW Department Resources. In your communications with members, direct them to the Department Resources page for the most current information on the Military Assistance Program, Operation Uplink, and Unmet Needs!

The 2010 Legislative Conference will be held March 6-10, 2010. Time is available for check presentations to NMS or any of our programs; MAP, Operation Uplink, or Unmet Needs. Please let Linda Ferguson know by February 26<sup>th</sup>, if your Department will present a check. Call or email Linda at 816-968-1102 or [lferguson@vfw.org](mailto:lferguson@vfw.org).

#### QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

#### **VFW SPONSORED PROGRAMS PUT MONEY IN YOUR POCKET**

The VFW offers over 35 different products and programs to our members and their families.

The revenue generated through sales of these products is shared with Departments based on the participation of members and posts. Your support of these programs is appreciated and vital to the financial health of the VFW and various veteran programs.

Please make the VFW your first stop when shopping for Post Liability, Medicare Supplement, Medicare Part D Prescription Plans, Pet, Cancer, Life, Long-Term Care and Vehicle Insurance.

If you have any questions or suggestions for new products, please send an email to Denise Edelman at [dedelman@vfw.org](mailto:dedelman@vfw.org) or call 1-800-821-2606, Option 4, ext 723.

#### **VFW POST INSURANCE**

Is your post experiencing difficulties finding affordable insurance? The VFW Post Insurance Program is here to help! The program is designed specifically to meet the unique insurance needs of VFW Posts and currently insures over 5,000 veterans' posts throughout the U.S. We offer Property, Liquor Liability, General Liability, Workers Compensation, Special Events and more. For a free, no-obligation quote on your insurance, call the VFW Post Insurance Program at 1-800-829-8390.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS:**

### **LifeLock – Identity Theft Protection**

Protect Your Identity with LifeLock – the VFW sponsored program that guards against identity theft. Last year, identity theft increased 22% for a five-year high of nearly 10 million victims at a cost of \$48 million. That's an identity stolen every three seconds. But you don't have to be next. VFW has partnered with LifeLock to provide you a special savings on LifeLock's industry-leading identity theft protection service. Don't wait until it's too late. Enroll today and you'll receive a limited-time discount of 10% of the regular membership price. Help protect yourself now. Visit [www.lifelock.com](http://www.lifelock.com) or call 1-800-LIFELOCK (543-3562). Use promo code "VFW".

### **Glow Parking LLC – Nationwide Airport Parking Network**

Glow Parking, LLC, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned business, is proud to announce the VFW Foundation as its primary charity. [www.vfwparking.com](http://www.vfwparking.com) extends Glow Parking's nationwide airport parking network to members of the VFW and their families. Originally developed for the Federal government, [www.vfwparking.com](http://www.vfwparking.com) offers the same best value rates, and you never pay any booking fees. The reservation system to book your airport parking is quick, simple, secure, and best of all – guaranteed! You have easy access to your reservation history; therefore, you never need to worry about losing a receipt again. Visit [www.vfwparking.com](http://www.vfwparking.com), or call 877-891-GLOW (4569)

### **Veterans Travel Service, Inc., – a VFW member benefit worth remembering!**

If you are planning a trip, whether it is for business or personal, one of the member benefits is just a phone call away. Veterans Travel Service, Inc. has been working with VFW members since 1986 and can handle all your travel needs. They are experienced in every area of travel. It could be for a tour, cruise or vacation package. You receive a VFW rebate when booking with Veterans Travel Service. If you need help with airline tickets, their expertise might be the ticket you need; although they charge service fees, the savings will usually far outweigh the cost of the fee. So if you're travelling soon, call them at (800) 325-9377. They are located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Headquarters, and their personal service is something to be appreciated these days!

### **Save with Sprint!**

Switch to Sprint cellular service and save! Sprint has joined with the VFW to offer members, employees and their families several incentives with the purchase of a new wireless device and subscription through this exclusive program. Not only will you receive a 15% monthly discount on your cell phone service, but you will also receive additional gift cards or accessories with your order.

Already a Sprint customer? Refer another member who signs up for new service and receive a \$25 prepaid debit card. These offers are only valid at: [www.sprint.com/vfw](http://www.sprint.com/vfw) or #866-869-6686.

### **Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels**

As a member of the VFW, you will receive up to 20% off the "Best Available Rates" at participating locations every time you travel. Give agent special discount ID number 62615 at time of booking to receive the discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, an all-inclusive resort or something more cost-effective, we have the right hotel for you...and at the right price. So start saving now. Call our special member benefits hotline and reserve your room today at one of Wyndham's fine hotels.

Call 877-670-7088 to book your reservation.

## Car Rental Discounts

Whether it is business or pleasure, receive discounts for car rentals from Hertz, Avis, Alamo and National:

- Hertz: Call 1-800-654-2200 VFW identification number: CDP164126
- Avis: Call 1-800-331-1212 VFW identification number: A9935000
- Budget: Call 1-800527-0700 VFW identification number: V026800
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification number: 42592
- National: Call 1-800-227-7368 and request VFW Contract ID 5180005.

## MEMBERSHIP:

Just a reminder, the Dues Notice tapes are created on the last Friday of every month.

To prevent dues notices from being sent to those who have already paid, all membership transmittals must be received in the Dues Processing Department no later than noon on the following closing dates:

### TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2009 - 2010 YEAR:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE (DAY)</u>
FEBRUARY	February 26 (Friday)
MARCH	March 26 (Friday)
APRIL	April 30 (Friday)
MAY	May 28 (Friday)
JUNE	June 30 ( <b><u>WEDNESDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING</u></b> )

Your continued support and cooperation in ensuring that all cards are received in a timely fashion will be greatly appreciated.

We are still looking for the contact information of most departments' female She Serves chairperson. Please call or email VFW National Membership. Thank you to the departments that have sent in the names of the Chairpersons.

**JUST A REMINDER:** We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.

Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. This program offers 3 levels of membership each offering its own packages of prestigious benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<i>Enrollment Cost:</i>	<i>Annual Payouts (Natl, Dept &amp; Post):</i>
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Gold - \$1200	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00
Bronze - \$400	\$6.00

What Legacy will you leave?

## **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Veterans Service needs Your Support in 2010** – Today, more than 480,000 veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have sought care from the VA – not to mention the thousands of veterans from past wars and conflicts. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created an unprecedented demand for VFW's programs. Veterans need our help securing the entitlements they were promised by our government. Help ensure we have the resources needed to meet the increasing demand by supporting the Veterans Service Annual Campaign. Also, watch for the latest National Veterans Service Newsletter to arrive this month.

**Vietnam Veterans Educational Center Fund** – Later this month, we will be mailing a new 8" x 10" print of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial – The Wall. VFW is mailing its final fundraising campaign for the Vietnam Veterans Education Center Fund. VFW pledged to raise up to \$1 million dollars over a three-year period and we have nearly made our goal. Please help VFW reach its goal by showing your support when you receive the new print in the mail. The Vietnam Veterans Education Center will allow visitors to learn the importance of the Memorial, its role in helping to remember those who served, and the vital part it played in helping to heal the deep societal divisions resulting from the Vietnam War.

**Department Resources Web Page** – Just a quick reminder to visit the Department Resources web page at <http://vfwdepartmentresources.org> – your place for the latest news, program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, press releases, and more for your department publications and/or website. While you're there, be sure to click on these icons: Promotional Tools, What's New, and Mailings.

Use the Department Resources website to strengthen department programs. Check it out today!

**Friends of Freedom** – If you are not yet a member of VFW's online community, please visit [www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom](http://www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom) to sign up! **Friends of Freedom** is open to everyone. There is no cost or obligation to join – and you can opt-out at any time. **Friends of Freedom** members stay "in the know" about the work VFW does to serve all our heroes. Join today, and you will receive periodic e-mails containing inspiring stories from the home front and the front line, key legislative updates, special "insider information" and so much more.

**VFW at Work!** – Please be sure to visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) to read the inspiring stories of how VFW Departments, Posts and individuals are reaching out to America's defenders and their families. You can sign up to receive the monthly VFW at Work! e-newsletter by clicking on the link to "Join Friends of Freedom." Don't forget to check the site often to see all the new success stories of veterans and military families being helped by VFW. Be sure to click on the "Read More Stories" link at the bottom of the page to view an archive of VFW success stories from fellow members around the country.

**Have you heard about VFW's Partners in Patriotism?** – It is a realization that not everyone wants to receive our mailings but would still like to support the VFW's programs. This is why we developed Partners in Patriotism. Partners in Patriotism is a planned giving program that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly basis, reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis that is either charged to your credit card, or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in this option, please contact VFW Development Department at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email us at [vfwfundraising@vfw.org](mailto:vfwfundraising@vfw.org) with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

## **BUDDY POPPY:**

“To foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs.” The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, 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.

## **ALL AMERICAN STAR-SPANGLED BONUS.**

The Buddy Poppy Program is offering an additional opportunity to distribute poppies on March 3, in order to assist in meeting two of this year’s All American requirements. This additional Buddy Poppy date marks the anniversary of VFW’s victory in sealing the Star Spangled Banner as the national anthem on March 3, 1931. Further details on this event will be sent to each Department headquarters, Buddy Poppy chairmen and Post Commanders. Contact information: [nclifton@vfw.org](mailto:nclifton@vfw.org) (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>

## **PROGRAMS:**

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries reported donating over 4.9 million volunteer hours and over \$27 million towards community service work from May 1 to October 31, 2009. The total value of our volunteers’ efforts is valued at over \$127 million.

**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 and then Coast Guard. For Military flags, click here: <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22300>.

**NEW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AND PATRIOT’S PEN THEMES.** The 2010–2011 themes have been chosen by Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Richard L. Eubank. The Voice of Democracy theme will be “Does My Generation Have a Role in America’s Future?” and the Patriot’s Pen theme will be “Does Patriotism Still Matter?” This information will be posted on the VFW website.

**SPECIAL NOTE: VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT’S PEN CHANGES.** Effective January 1, 2010, Posts will be allowed to advance only one (1) winner for each program to District. At the request of many, the purpose of this change is to diminish the confusion at the Post level and ease pressure on the District judging.

Finally, issues have recently arisen that force me to state that the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen are VFW programs supported by the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. It is inappropriate for the Ladies Auxiliary to conduct a separate judging at any level.

If you have questions regarding any of the above, please e-mail [svanbuskirk@vfw.org](mailto:svanbuskirk@vfw.org) or call 816-968-1116.

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S MANUAL CHANGE.** By popular request, the program chairman’s manual (formerly “It’s About Service”) is being changed. Shortly, there will be individual program chairman’s manuals available online at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org). The individual manuals will include VFW Scholarship Programs, Safety & Recognition, Community Service, Youth

Activities and Buddy Poppy. This will enable chairman (and any member) to more quickly download and print the manual for their individual program area.

**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 2010 – 2011 VFW Community Service Chairmen’s Guide or contact the VFW Community Service department at 816-968-1148 for a nomination form.

**POW/MIA FLAG - OFFICIAL DISPLAY DAYS.** Public Law 105-85 (November 16, 1997) indicates the days that federal agencies, military installations, and U.S. post offices are required to display the POW/MIA flag. The days are: Armed Forces Day, May 15 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 31 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 17, (third Friday in September); and Veterans Day, November 11. To purchase a POW/MIA flag, click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22305>.