

# VFW Programs

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS & TEACHER AWARDS:

### *Time to Contact Your Schools*

Scholarship and Youth Activities Chairmen – contact your schools and youth groups in May and June to ensure our scholarship programs are considered for next fall. Materials for Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and the National Citizenship Education Teacher's Awards were mailed in April to all levels of VFW Commanders and Ladies Auxiliary Presidents, plus more than 52,000 teachers. All materials are available at [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org) and on the VFW website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

Spring is the time to contact schools, home-school associations, sports teams, church youth groups, Scout troops, and any groups where young people might be interested in our scholarship programs. Meeting with them now, will ensure they respond favorably next fall and have their essays and entry forms ready by November 1. **Contact [kharter@vfw.org](mailto:kharter@vfw.org) (816) 968-1117 or [swilson@vfw.org](mailto:swilson@vfw.org) (816) 756-3390 x 220.**

Do you know of a teacher that currently promotes civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism in their classroom? If so, nominate them in the teacher award program by submitting an entry form and essay to your local VFW Post by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org) or call 816-756-3390, x287 for further information.

### **RECOGNITION: National Awards for Public Servants**

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency services persons, law enforcement officers and firefighters to receive VFW National Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by November 1. The Department must select a single candidate for each award and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by November 17. For information of awards for each eligible candidate, please contact: **[tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org) (816) 756-3390 x 287**

### **VFW MILITARY FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP**

The VFW Military Family Scholarship is a great recruiting tool and brochure/entry forms should be used everywhere VFW Posts, Districts and Departments are seeking members.

Created in 2005, in response to inquiries from military personnel and those recently discharged, the program consists of twenty-five \$3,000 scholarships (five for each service

branch). Entries are accepted throughout the year. Selections from the eligible entries are made in February following the December 31 deadline. Entrants must be currently in uniform or recently discharged (within the 36 months preceding the December 31 deadline for the year in which they submit their entry form).

VFW Posts, Districts and Departments are encouraged to provide entry forms to every eligible member or potential member they come in contact with during deployments, redeployments, recruiting efforts, etc. Quantities of the brochure/entry form/self-mailer are available by writing, e-mailing or calling: Susan Wilson, VFW Programs, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, Phone: (816) 756-3390 ext. 220, E-mail: [swilson@vfw.org](mailto:swilson@vfw.org)

*COMMUNITY SERVICE:  
Community Service Award*

June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for Department submissions of Outstanding Community Service Posts. Departments with less than 200 Posts may submit one entry, 201-399 Posts – two entries, and 400+ may submit three entries.

Named Posts receive an invitation for the Post and Ladies Auxiliary representative to attend a reception at the National Convention, a \$599 check to help with expenses, group photo with the Commander-in-Chief and Ladies Auxiliary National President, reserved seating at Joint Opening Session, recognition in both the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary convention booklets, and a street sign acknowledging the Post's honor. **Contact information: [nclifton@vfw.org](mailto:nclifton@vfw.org) (816) 968-1148**

*BUDDY POPPY:  
Plan and Organize Campaign with the Media.*

Very few businesses succeed without advertising. Your Buddy Poppy Campaign is no different. Since we must rely on non-paid forms of advertising, it's important to use every media opportunity available and give them something they can use easily. Distribute promotional pieces in time for them to become visible a minimum of 2-3 weeks ahead of your campaign.

Display ads should tell what you are doing, where you will be and when you will be there. News releases and public service announcements have the same information, but also explain why you are distributing poppies.

Feature stories can be arranged by meeting with a reporter and explaining what your Post has done with its Post Relief Fund. A reporter is interested in the "human interest angle." They want to know who benefited (locally) and how. You may also wish to encourage them to visit your volunteers on the street with a recorder or camera! **Contact information: [tgniotczynski@vfw.org](mailto:tgniotczynski@vfw.org) (816) 968-2727**