

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES**

General Orders No. 8

2009-10 Series

1. INSTALLING OFFICERS:

Installing officers will see that the provisions of Section 216 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure are properly carried out and that all officers are members in good standing and qualified to hold office prior to installing Post officers for the current year. Post officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed.

Post Election Reports must be submitted following Post election of officers in April and no later than June 1 to the National Headquarters. Post Election Reports received electronically will be forwarded to the Department Headquarters.

2. Pursuant to Section 403 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, each District shall hold an annual District convention for the purpose of electing District officers, such convention to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department convention. District officers shall not assume the duties of their office until the Department Commander is installed. District officers shall not be installed or assume the duties of their office until proof of eligibility has been submitted and properly reviewed in accordance with Section 416 of the Manual of Procedure.

3. LOYALTY DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE:

Section 223 of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure provides that each Post shall make the necessary arrangements for proper observance of Loyalty Day and Memorial Day. Officers should see that suitable grave markers, wreaths and flags of the United States are placed on the graves of deceased veterans.

4. BUDDY POPPIES DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in Section 711 of the National By-Laws 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.

NOTE: As the upcoming Memorial Day approaches, and given the daily hazards confronting our military on a daily basis during Operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is appropriate that we direct as many VFW resources as possible to supporting our troops and their families.

In the ongoing effort to provide as much assistance as possible to those serving in the military, we recommend that proceeds or portions from this year's annual poppy distribution be designated for the purpose of providing VFW support to our military. Posts and Departments now have the opportunity to assist qualified military personnel through the VFW National Military Services.

In keeping with the intent of Section 704(a)(c) of the Manual of Procedure "Relief Fund," this year's poppy campaign can play a direct role in demonstrating to those who are charged with protecting and defending our way of life that we appreciate and value their sacrifice.

For questions about the Buddy Poppy program, please contact Steve Van Buskirk, Director, Programs at (816) 968-1116 or email at svanbuskirk@vfw.org.

5. Certificates of Charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:
Post Nos. 3437 and 3572 consolidated as Post No. 3437, Sweet Home, Oregon
Post Nos. 2848 and 10644 consolidated as Post No. 2848, Bay City, Oregon
Post Nos. 3620 and 6262 consolidated as Post No. 3620, Gloucester, New Jersey

6. Announcement is made of the authorization of the charter for the following Post:

Post No. 12091 – Baymon, Puerto Rico

BY COMMAND OF
THOMAS J. TRADEWELL, SR.
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:



Allen "Gunner" Kent
Adjutant General