

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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G O D C O U N T R Y V E T E R A N S

BUDDY POPPY:

Plans should be under way for the Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for Buddy Poppies. Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128> or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The 111th National Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest winners are:

Category 1 – Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

First Place	Oregon Post No. 8739 Oregon, Illinois
Second Place	Fontaine Qui Bouille Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 6461 Fountain, Colorado
Third Place	Richard A. Anderson Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 8953 Romayor, Texas
Honorable Mention	West Tawakoni Memorial Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 2559 West Tawakoni, Texas
Directors Award	Oregon Post No. 8739 Oregon, Illinois

Category 2 – Memorial or Inspirational Displays

First Place	Sugarloaf Memorial Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 6368 Dupo, Illinois
Second Place	Valley District Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 1589 Masontown, West Virginia

- Third Place Arnaudville Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 5153
Arnaudville, Louisiana
- Honorable Mention Ladies Auxiliary to the Virgil Wilson Post No. 4961
Seaford, Delaware
- Directors Award Kersten-O'Day Post No. 2899
Bell-Day, Kentucky

Category 3 – Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

- First Place Crawford County Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 4549
Robinson, Illinois
- Second Place Hugo Matejcek Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 3723
Owatonna, Minnesota
- Third Place Baxter Springs Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 408
Baxter Springs, Kansas
- Honorable Mention Hedrick-Rhodes Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 5206
Hendersonville, North Carolina
- Directors Award Hugo Matejcek Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 3723
Owatonna, Minnesota

Category 4 – Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Jr. Girls Units/Sons of the VFW)

- First Place Jr. Girls Units Ladies Auxiliary to the Department of Michigan, VFW
Lansing, Michigan
- Second Place Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the Hinkel-Kleeschulte-Westhoff
Post No. 5077
O'Fallon, Missouri
- Third Place Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the Fred E. Richards Post No. 3055
St. Louis, Michigan
- Honorable Mention Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the Narrows Bridge
Post No. 10018
Tacoma, Washington
- Directors Award Jr. Girls Units Ladies Auxiliary to the Department of Michigan, VFW
Lansing, Michigan

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

PATRIOT DAY, SEPTEMBER 11. Per Presidential Proclamation, September 11th 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 <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2010-2011 PROGRAM YEAR. The VFW wants to recognize the nation's top elementary, junior high and high school teachers (teaching at least half of the school day in a classroom environment) who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history, traditions and institutions effectively through the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Nominations can be submitted by fellow teachers, VFW posts, supervisors or other interested individuals (not relatives). Self-nominees are not eligible.

Based on the nominees submitted by November 1st, local VFW posts will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Posts then submit the winners' names to their District level judging who will forward their winners to the Department (or state level) by December 15. After judging, each Department forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest. This is part of the 2010-2011 All American Program.

VFW's National Citizenship Education Teacher awards include: three national \$1,000 awards for the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses; \$1,000 award to each winning teacher's school; plaques for both the winning teacher and school; and, an all-expenses paid trip to attend a VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National conference.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at www.vfw.org under Programs and www.vfwdepartmentresources.org under Program Information or ordered through www.vfwstore.org or calling 1-800-821-2606.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Emblem and Supply, product #4320, <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980>. Present to all teachers nominated at all levels for the national award.

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM MONTH IN NOVEMBER. VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW members are encouraged to volunteer in their schools to talk about their military and home front experiences to students. Invite your local military recruiter to join you to talk about military service today. Additional information can be found in the 2010–2011 VFW Community Activities VFW Chairman's Manual, which can be accessed on www.vfw.org or www.vfwdepartmentresources.org. *Participate in this activity as part of "National Veterans Awareness" week, November 7-13, as designated by Congress.*

VFW SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM. This program was put in place to recognize VFW units for creating and completing unique and extraordinary community service projects.

Record book entry nominations that are found to be complete and well-substantiated should be endorsed by the Department Adjutant or VFW Department Community Activities Chairman and forwarded to National Programs Department. Deadline for entries is April 30 of each year.

Every Post Special Project receiving the Award of Excellence in the December judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Competition. Complete information can be found in the 2010 – 2011 VFW Community Activities Chairman's Manual.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING. Recent conclusion of the twelve-month Community Service reporting period seems to have revealed that too many Posts are not clear on the manner in which community service hours and dollars should be reported.

Twice each year, in December and June, VFW Departments file a report with the VFW Programs office regarding community service activities listed by Post.

When the Post reports to the Department, they should list the hours of community service performed by the Post, affiliated Cootie Scratch, Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of the VFW, Men's Auxiliary and Junior Girls for that reporting period. Only volunteer service hours benefiting the community are to be reported. Volunteer hours committed to projects and activities benefiting the Post and the affiliated units listed above cannot be reported.

The money that should be reported are the dollars donated or expended in the performance of the community service hours reported, plus \$.14 per mile for each mile driven by the volunteers.

Posts should not report any figures derived from the value of hours worked.

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 21 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 30 (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>

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Heart and Valor...Honor America and Our Freedoms – Show tribute to fellow veterans by displaying your VFW 2011 Calendar. The calendars will arrive in early September. You will find powerful images in this calendar that we hope will remind you of your own service to this nation and that the heart and valor of all veterans are reflected here. Your 2011 Calendar includes reminders of days to fly the United States flag and other important dates in history to remember the sacrifices of America's veterans. You can also find useful information on VFW programs throughout the calendar that are available to all veterans, current service members and their families. Your support of the 2011 Calendar Program helps veterans in need across the nation throughout the year.

Veterans Day is not Far Away – Late this month, we will be mailing out the Veterans Day Label package. Please use the patriotic address labels and stickers with pride. In the package, you will also find a 2010 Veterans Day petition to the United States Congress. Please sign and return the petition so we can deliver them to our Congressional leaders by Veterans Day to help make our voices heard in Washington! Your support of this important program will also help keep the VFW Veterans Service program strong and healthy.

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 with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of VFW's online community, visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up. Members of this special online community will receive a monthly e-newsletter with new grassroots stories about VFW working in the communities assisting veterans in need, educating the youth, and assisting military families across the nation and overseas. Also, as a member of VFW's Friends of Freedom, you will receive special e-mails with breaking VFW news, and special opportunities to help VFW in assisting our nation's veterans, service members and their families.

VFW is Helping Our Heroes...Read Success Stories – Please visit www.vfw.org/vfwatwork to see VFW's grassroots success stories that are making a real difference for real people. New success stories will be posted as the VFW is out there doing its job – so check back often. If you enjoy reading these success stories and would like to receive a monthly update, please visit www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom to sign up to receive the VFW at Work newsletter automatically at the beginning of every month!

Department Resources Website – Please remember to visit www.vfwdepartmentresources.org for the latest news, program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Remember, it is very important for VFW Departments to communicate the importance of supporting department programs.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS

VFW SPONSORED PROGRAMS PUT MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

The VFW offers various products and programs to our members and their families.

The revenue generated through sales of selected products is shared with Departments based on the participation of members and posts.

Make the VFW your first stop when shopping for Life insurance, Medicare Supplements, Reverse/ VA Mortgages and much more. Visit www.vfwinsurance.com to learn about these helpful programs.

Your support of these programs is appreciated and vital to the financial health of the VFW and many veteran programs.

For questions about VFW sponsored programs, please call 1-800-821-2606, option 1.

Senior Hospital Indemnity

Are you prepared for a personal health crisis like your own hospitalization? You have Medicare, but is it enough? Hospital Indemnity Insurance can provide for the many "extras" associated with a hospital stay that may be uncovered by Medicare -- such as private rooms, special nursing care, out-of-pocket costs or personal bills that must be paid. A few highlights of this valuable coverage for VFW members include:

All hospitalizations are covered, for sickness or injury

Get cash for EVERY day you're in the hospital—whether it's because of an accident or illness

DOUBLE benefits to help you fight cancer

Skilled nursing facility care benefits in addition to hospitalization

To find out more, request information by calling call 1-800-749-6983 or visit www.vfwinsurance.com

Dental Insurance

From dental cleanings to root canals, it can be difficult to predict how much money you're going to spend for your dental care. VFW's new partnership with MetLife gives you access to individual dental

insurance plans you need to promote good dental health, at a great group discount! For more information about VFW Sponsored Dental Insurance from Met Life, call 1-888-627-5897.

Tricare Supplement

Coming Soon: VFW National Headquarters is pleased to offer Tricare Supplement to VFW members and their families. Coverage will be available starting October 1st! To request information, please call 1-800-821-2606, option 1.

VFW Member Insurance

Find out more about VFW sponsored insurance plans through National Headquarters at www.vfwinsurance.com

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 2010 - 2011 YEAR:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>DEADLINE DATE</u>	<u>(DAY)</u>
SEPTEMBER	September 24	(Friday)
OCTOBER	October 29	(Friday)
NOVEMBER	November 26	(Friday)
DECEMBER	December 31	(Friday)
JANUARY	January 28	(Friday)
FEBRUARY	February 25	(Friday)
MARCH	March 25	(Friday)
APRIL	April 29	(Friday)
MAY	May 27	(Friday)
JUNE	June 30	<u>(THURSDAY - MUST BE RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)</u>

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

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:

- The 2010-2011 National Membership program is listed in the Leadership Reference guide. This can be viewed online via E-Membership.
- Please pass the word on our Life Legacy Program available to all Life Members. An email was sent to all Departments on March 16, with an ad to be included in your Department Convention booklets. This program offers three 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.

Enrollment Cost:

***Annual Payouts
(Natl, Dept & Post):***

Gold - \$1200	\$18.00
Silver - \$800	\$12.00
Bronze - \$400	\$6.00

What Legacy will you leave?

ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT MILITARY EQUIPMENT

Department Adjutants & Quartermasters are asked to remind all Post Officers to refer to their *2010-2011 Leadership Reference Guide* when requesting “conditional” donation of any government military equipment, ceremonial rifles or ammunition.

Before contacting the governmental agency, a formal written request is to be addressed and mailed to the Adjutant General at VFW National Headquarters, and must be completed and signed by the current *Post Commander, Post Adjutant* or *Post Quartermaster*, one of who needs to be the contact person.

Also to be included is that contact person’s mailing address and phone number, not the Post address. Address the request to the Adjutant General, VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Include the proper information as outlined in the *Leadership Reference Guide*. It is requested that a Post *not* go through their Department Headquarters (but send them a courtesy copy). This only slows down the processing and creates unnecessary paperwork for the Department personnel.

REMINDER – In accordance with the Ritual General Rule 13(b), “members will follow the action of the Chaplain or presiding officer relative to removal of caps during prayers; if uncovering, the hat shall be placed on the extended closed fingers of the right hand in such a way that the Cross of Malta is exposed and held over the heart.”

MEMBER DUES PROCESSING:

Attention Post Quartermaster:

Your year-ending 2010 Post Membership Roster was included with your final 2010 Quarterly Maintenance Journal mailed in July 2010.

Processing of 2011 annual dues began on July 1st 2010.

The 2010/2011 VFW Leadership Reference Guide is located at:

<https://emem.vfw.org/ssl/securelogin.aspx>.

Use this page to securely sign into the VFW eMembership site.

New to the site: Create a New Account

Repeat User: Secure Sign In

VMail – vfw.com or <http://vfw.com/src/login.php>.

Check box: “I have read and agree to all rules regarding VMail”

Enter: postXXXXX (your post number) – “post” must be typed in lower case

Enter: Password

Life Membership Installment Plan

Effective July 1st 2010, only the 12-month installment plan is being offered. **NO** 24-month plan.

Need assistance: Please contact Member Dues Processing at 1-800-963-3180.

VFW STORE/EMBLEM & SUPPLY:

2010-2011 *VFW STORE* CATALOG – check out the new look and new merchandise! If you haven't already received it, you will shortly.

A catalog is sent to all Department Officers, Post Quartermasters and Commanders, and Ladies Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers. VFW STORE - www.vfwstore.org; 1-800-821-2606

PATRIOT DAY – SEPTEMBER 11th: Remembering those who perished on 9-11. Show your American Pride. <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=238>

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY – *You are Not Forgotten* - SEPTEMBER 17th: Honor the commitments and sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=97>

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Kick off the new fiscal year with a fundraiser to support National Military Services! We have two fundraising ideas available through our office: Donor Supporter Cards and T-shirts and Koozies! For order forms, go to www.vfwdepartmentresources.org. If you have any questions about the fundraisers, please call 816-756-3390, ext. 261.