

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

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"H O N O R I N G O U R M I L I T A R Y H E R O E S"

2010 REVISED PODIUM EDITION – CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER, BY-LAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE AND RITUAL:

The podium editions of the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual, which reflect the amendments adopted by the 110th National Convention, effective September 19, 2009, are being printed and expected by mid-October 2009.

The Emblem and Supply Department will fill orders as soon as the new editions have been received. All units and officers should have a copy of the latest By-Laws and Ritual for their use.

Please be advised that there has also been substantial renumbering of the sections in the articles, particularly II-VI of both the By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure, even on some that had no text changes. So, be alert when making references to please double-check the 2010 version so that the correct citation will be used.

MEMBER DUES PROCESSING:

Monthly Maintenance Journal Converts to Quarterly Publication

The printed version of the *Monthly Maintenance Journal* will become a quarterly publication beginning with the October 2009 issue. The launch of e-Membership in 2006 and Post Query function delivers timely information almost instantaneously. These programs make it possible to reduce the current monthly printed version of the journal to a quarterly.

Foremost among our goals is to deliver information as quickly as possible. Internet technology best enhances that objective. This change is a balance between our posts' desires to get more information faster via the Internet, and continuing to provide a print service to those who prefer a hard copy. By lowering some printing and postage expenses, we can increase the overall amount of information.

The printed editions will be delivered at the beginning of October, January, April and July. If you have questions or need assistance, please call 1-800-963-3180.

VFW STORE/EMBLEM & SUPPLY:

Look What's **NEW** <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=250>

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:

Guaranteed Rate Mortgage - VFW National Headquarters has selected Guaranteed Rate Mortgage as our sponsored mortgage provider. When a VFW member obtains a loan through Guaranteed Rate Mortgage, he or she will receive a paid-in-full VFW Life Membership. If the member is already a life member, the life membership may be donated to a returning service member or other eligible veteran, or a \$400 donation may be made to the VFW in the member's name. To apply visit: <https://www.guaranteedrate.com/apply/vfw.php> or call 1-877-291-6965.

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:

Become a Veterans' Advocate – Want to help make things happen for veterans? Join the VFW Advocacy team and help improve the lives of veterans and our active duty military, guard and reserve members. Sign up for our Washington Weekly e-newsletter and you will be the first to know what is happening in Washington with regard to veterans' benefits. You will become an active participant and be able to educate your legislators on our top priority goals. We have had many successes - but need your help as we continue to fight on behalf of all veterans as well as the men and women serving in our military today.

Please take the time to sign-up for the VFW Washington Weekly newsletter. It remains the best way to stay informed of what the VFW is doing on the legislative front in Washington, D.C. You will find the 2009 Legislative Priority goals and the link to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at www.vfw.org. Just click on the *Capitol Hill* section.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

October 12th is the ninth anniversary of the attack on the USS Cole where 17 American Sailors lost their lives. Annually, the VFW places a spray of roses at the gravesites of 13 of the 17 heroes. The VFW National Headquarters has also adopted the USS Cole through the Adopt-A-Unit Program. We ask that all VFW members remember these brave men and women.

Unmet Needs has surpassed the **\$3 million** dollar mark in funds disbursed to service members and their families. These funds have helped thousands of military families overcome a financial hardship due to military service. Thank you to everyone that has donated to Unmet Needs to help keep this wonderful program running strong.

The new MAP Grant Application FAQ's are now available to download at www.vfwdepartmentresources.org. The FAQ's can be downloaded as a stand-alone document and it is also included in the MAP Grant application. This FAQ provides answers to many questions regarding the MAP Grant procedures.

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 its 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 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 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 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, 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!

Did you know VFW members and their families are eligible for a 15% monthly discount off most regularly priced Sprint plans. Check out www.sprint.com/vfw for more info. Forget restrictive calling circles. Switch to Sprint with Any Mobile, Anytime(SM) and get unlimited calling to every mobile phone nationwide. Already have an Everything Data Plan? Then do nothing. Sprint will automatically add this feature to your plan. **ONLINE SPECIAL:** Activate a new line of service and receive a \$25 gift card when you order online! Only available at your Sprint Private Store at www.sprint.com/vfw or call 1-866-869-6686 today.

Hotel Discounts – Wyndham Worldwide Family of Hotels

As a member of the VFW you will receive an additional 10% 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 discount. Whether you are looking for an upscale hotel, and 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 these fine hotels.

Call 877-670-7088 or [click here](#) 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: AWD -A9935000
- Alamo: Call 1-800-732-3232 VFW Identification Number: 42592
- National: Call 1-800-CAR-RENT (800-227-7368) and request VFW Contract ID 5180005.

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>.

VFW HONORS AMERICA'S TEACHERS DURING 2009-2010 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 members 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 a requirement in the 2009-2010 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 function.

A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) was mailed in April to Junior High and High School teachers across the nation and to VFW and Ladies Auxiliary leaders. Additional information on how to conduct the program is included in the VFW Programs Chairman's Guide "*It's About Service*," which is located on the VFW Leadership Reference Guide CD, that was mailed in July to all Posts in the Quartermaster kits. "*It's About Service*" is also available on-line at www.vfw.org and www.vfwdepartmentresources.org.

Order the Citizenship Education Teacher Recognition Citation from VFW Emblem and Supply, product #4320, at <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=23980> and other items that may be helpful <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=237>. 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 2009- 2010 "*It's About Service*" VFW Programs Chairman's Guide (page 43), which can be accessed on www.vfw.org or www.vfwdepartmentresources.org and other items that may be helpful <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=237>. *Participate in this activity as part of "National Veterans Awareness" week, November 8-14, as designated by Congress.*

VFW is partnering with the History Channel to promote their third year of Take a Veteran to School (TAV). Resources for TAV are available online at History.com/WWII in HD. This is a very noble and interesting project, one that involves great personal satisfaction for those that become involved in it. Let's really support it.

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 2009 – 2010 “*It’s About Service*” VFW Program Chairman’s Guide, page 31.

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.

CONDUCT A VETERANS DAY PROGRAM ON NOVEMBER 11. Organize a community event on Veterans Day honoring all veterans. For a ceremonial procedure, refer to pages 45 and 46 in the “*It’s About Service*” Chairman’s Guidebook. If you should need a Veterans Day speech, please contact the National Communications and Public Affairs department at 816-756-3390. Click here for Veterans Day merchandise: <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=238>.

To support Veterans Day activities in your local middle schools, high schools and colleges, order the CD-ROM, A CENTURY OF OVERSEAS SERVICE, from VFW Emblem and Supply Department <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22720> (product 4138, was \$19.95, now on clearance for \$5.00 plus shipping, MacIntosh and Windows compatible). Describes events in our military history from the Spanish American War to Bosnia through reprints of articles and maps from the VFW magazine.

VFW PROMOTES NATIONAL GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY, FEBRUARY 2. Over one million students across America will experience first-hand how academic skills they learn in the classroom are put into action in the workplace by shadowing a workplace mentor in a normal day on the job. The program is spearheaded by America’s Promise Alliance.

Post members should inform their employers about this program and have them contact their local high school or Junior Achievement to participate.

For further information, the Groundhog Job Shadow coalition has a website www.jobshadow.org that lists individual state contact information. You’re encouraged to use this website and learn how the program works.

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>.

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 110th National Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest winners are:

Category 1 – Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| First Place | Earl W. Homer Memorial Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 7678 Cottage Hills, Illinois |
| Second Place | Robert H. Scholer Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 2111 Chula Vista, California |
| Third Place | Okolona Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 8639 Okolona, Kentucky |
| Honorable Mention | Thaddeus H. Caraway Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 2278 Hot Springs, Arkansas |
| Directors Award | Ladies Auxiliary to the Coquille Post No. 965 Coquille, Oregon |

Category 2 – Memorial or Inspirational Displays

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|-------------------|---|
| First Place | Pewaukee Memorial Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 9537 Pewaukee, Wisconsin |
| Second Place | Franklin Wilkins Post No. 1294 Lexington, Tennessee |
| Third Place | Tracy P. Mac Pherson Post No. 12043 Maricopa, Arizona |
| Honorable Mention | Ladies Auxiliary to the Ft. Mitchell Post No. 5180 Ft. Mitchell, Alabama |
| Directors Award | Herbert H. Norman Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 4830 Moultrie, Georgia |

Category 3 – Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| First Place | Airport Cities Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 10454 Grapevine, Texas |
| Second Place | Robert H. Scholer Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 2111 Chula Vista, California |
| Third Place | Hugo Matejcek Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 3723 Owatonna, Minnesota |
| Honorable Mention | General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller Post No. 1503 Dale City, Virginia |
| Directors Award | Hugo Matejcek Post & Ladies Auxiliary No. 3723 Owatonna, Minnesota |

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

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|-------------------|---|
| First Place | Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Twin Cities Post No. 3085 Hartshorne, Oklahoma |
| Second Place | Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the Chicago Bridgeport Post No. 5079 Chicago, Illinois |
| Third Place | Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the General Hill Post No. 3601 Paris, Illinois |
| Honorable Mention | Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the Golden Post No. 4171 Golden, Colorado |
| Directors Award | Jr. Girls Unit Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Olan Forest Smith Unit 8577 Copperas Cove, Texas |

DEVELOPMENT:

Pride of Service – The exclusive 2010 VFW Calendar was mailed to many members in September. These calendars are a wonderful representation of the United States and our military as it does its duty for our nation. In addition to your calendar, you should have also received a set of stickers to use on your calendar for reminders such as birthdays, anniversaries, post events, etc.

If you haven't already, please send the most generous gift you can today. Your support of the 2010 VFW Calendar Program helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year. Fellow veterans in your area and across the country are counting on you!

The Holiday Season is Nearing – Though summer has just passed, the holiday season is rapidly approaching. To help you get in the spirit, you'll soon receive your new VFW Christmas cards. We hope you enjoy this year's exclusive new collection. Your support of the VFW Christmas Card Program will help your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the upcoming year!

Our Fundraising Mission – VFW works very hard to raise much needed funds that go toward keeping the many helpful programs and services we offer strong and successful. The note cards, calendars, address labels and Christmas cards are just some of the fundraising programs we have. We also raise funds through the VFW at Work website, www.vfwatwork.org, as well as through special emails to our online community, Friends of Freedom.

Because we are not a government agency, we get no support at government or taxpayer expense. We rely on generous donations from our members and loyal supporters of the VFW. Did you know that only 11 percent of the money that keeps the programs going comes from VFW membership dues? This is why your support of VFW's fundraising efforts is so critical. Without dedicated, generous members like you, VFW programs would suffer terribly.

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> | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| OCTOBER | October 30 | (Friday) |
| NOVEMBER | November 27 | (Friday) |
| DECEMBER | December 25 | (Friday) |
| JANUARY | January 29 | (Friday) |
| FEBRUARY | February 26 | (Friday) |
| MARCH | March 26 | (Friday) |
| APRIL | April 30 | (Friday) |
| MAY | May 28 | (Friday) |
| JUNE | June 30 | <u>(WEDNESDAY - 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.

On July 1, 2010, the VFW Life Membership department will no longer offer a 24-month installment option. The Life Membership Installment program (12 months) will continue to require an initial set up fee of \$35.00 and 11 equal payments totaling the corresponding fee based on the individual applicant's age. Effective September 1, 2009, the necessity to charge a \$1.75 monthly administrative fee is also being discontinued.

JUST A REMINDER: The new membership application now has a line reserved for the Quartermaster's signature. This line is intended for use only when submitting a transfer. This will replace the previously used Member Change Request (MCR) form.