

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



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

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

VOLUME 34, NO. 9

MAY 2010

### *"HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES"*

#### DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

**Spring Has Sprung!** – The special VFW Spring Note cards were mailed at the end of April. I hope you have received yours and have had a chance to use some of them. Please remember, your support of this important program helps your VFW Department assist veterans in need throughout the year.

**There's Still Time to Help** – Earlier this spring, you received personalized address labels to use on your mail. If you haven't already, please consider making a donation when your reminder arrives this month. Your support of this program helps to keep your VFW Department programs and services strong and healthy. Show your support of our nation's past and current defenders today! And please, use your labels proudly.

**Did Your Special VFW Tote Bag Arrive?** – Several weeks ago we sent out a special new item to our most loyal members – a new VFW Tote Bag. We hope you received your new tote bag in good condition and are using it with pride. By carrying your tote bag, you will show your pride in the VFW and your service to this nation. We certainly hope you will also send in a generous gift to support the important programs of the VFW. Your gifts will be used to help support the programs right in your own Department.

**Take Note!** – Later this month, you will be receiving the popular "American Heroes: Then and Now" personalized notepad and patriotic address labels. We hope you enjoy the nostalgic images on the notepad and use them with pride. This is just another great opportunity to support the programs and services of the VFW that assist fellow veterans in need throughout the year in your own Department.

**May is National Military Appreciation Month** – Is your post planning a special event to commemorate Military Spouses Day on May 7<sup>th</sup>, Peace Officers Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>, National Maritime Day on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, or Memorial Day on May 31<sup>st</sup>?

If your post is planning a special event this month to commemorate any of the above mentioned special days, please share your success story with us. We will be looking for special stories from posts like yours to feature in upcoming "VFW at Work" monthly e-newsletters and on [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork). You may e-mail your story to [success@vfw.org](mailto:success@vfw.org). Shout your good works from the rooftops – with "VFW at Work"!

**VFW Friends of Freedom** – If you are not already a member of VFW's online community, visit [www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom](http://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 out 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.

**Department Resources Website** – Please remember to visit [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://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.

**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:**

Orders for Memorial Day (May distribution) are now being processed. Quartermasters and Buddy Poppy Chairmen are encouraged to take advantage of the enormous wave of **patriotism** and order early. You are also reminded that the full name as listed in membership and a street address expedites delivery by UPS. Please **do not** use P.O. Box numbers. For Buddy Poppy merchandise, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>

NEW!!! Anniversary Buddy Poppy Information:

The response has been overwhelming to the Diamond, Gold, and Silver anniversary Buddy Poppies. These poppies as well as a re-order have now been depleted. Our veterans are working hard to meet the demand for these new poppies so response to orders may take additional time.

The maximum order of 500 per Post, Auxiliary, District, or Department, will remain in effect and the orders will be processed on a first come/first served basis.

### **NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):**

Reminder: **May is National Military Appreciation Month (NMSA)**. Consider wearing the NMS Support Our Troops t-shirts at your events!

The NMS Recognition Certificates for donations received from May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010 will be sent directly to the Departments for distribution at each Department Convention. Thank you for the support!

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS:**

Just a reminder to all Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters that you will not be receiving copies of the VFW Leadership Reference Guide CDs this year as part of the Quartermaster Kits. **Coming soon**, the VFW Leadership Reference Guide will be available on-line in E-membership. More details to follow.

## **QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:**

### **21st Century Auto Insurance**

VFW National Headquarters endorses 21st Century Auto Insurance. The program includes member preferred rates and coverage for VFW members and their families.

VFW-Sponsored Auto Insurance offers both savings when you buy your policy and security when you get behind the wheel of your car.

Additional benefits at no cost include:

- 24-Hour Roadside Assistance
- Identity Theft Restoration Service
- Emergency Travel & Medical Assistance

Call 1-800-354-0181 for a no-obligation rate quotation or request a quote online at <http://vfw.21st.com>

### **Cancer Insurance**

Help protect against the rising cost of cancer treatment with the VFW sponsored cancer insurance plan. Benefits can be paid directly to you regardless of any other insurance you may have or to your doctor if you request. Premiums are at affordable group rates. Certain limitations and exclusions apply.

For more information about cancer insurance call 1-800-749-6983 or request a free information kit online at <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/cancer.htm>

### **Senior Term Life Insurance**

Your acceptance is guaranteed - up to \$25,000 in coverage for VFW members and spouses ages 45 – 75. No medical exam or questions; the policy cannot be cancelled. To receive free information call 1-800-749-6983 or request information online at <http://www.vfwinsurance.com/SrTermLife.htm>

### **High Limit Term Life Insurance**

To receive a quote for Individual Term Life coverage at limits of \$100,000 to \$3,000,000, go to <http://www.icinsure.com/vfw/> or call 1-800-715-5836 x 6829

### **VFW Insurance**

For information about various insurance plans that are sponsored by National, please visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com).

## **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 2010 Legislative Priority Goals and the link to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Just click on the *Capitol Hill* section.

**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:**

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u>DEADLINE DATE (DAY)</u></b>	
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.

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:**

- 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. An email was sent to all Departments on March 16, with an ad to be included in your Department Convention booklets. 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.

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

What Legacy will you leave?

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 100% DEPARTMENTS:**

ALASKA  
HAWAII  
LATIN AMER/CARIBBEAN  
MONTANA  
NEVADA  
NEW MEXICO  
OHIO  
UTAH

## **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, Budget 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.

## **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>

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S MANUAL CHANGE. By popular request, the program chairman's manual (formerly "It's About Service") is being changed. The new individual program chairman's manuals are now 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.

SPECIAL NOTE: VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN. The decision to limit the winners advanced from Post to District has been rescinded. As in the past, Posts may advance one (1) winner for each fifteen (15) students judged at the Post to the District competition.

Please remember that 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.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG. The U.S. Flag should be at half-staff on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May (federal holiday - half-staff until noon). Flags available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=211>

FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. All VFW units are reminded to properly display the U.S. Flag on Flag Day, Monday, June 14 and to conduct a ceremony or program as feasible. You may contact the VFW Communications Department for a Flag Day speech. It is also suggested Posts should award the VFW Patriotic Citizen Award (product No. 4385) for those who have daily displayed our National flag. This product is available at the VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22874>.

ALERT – CUTTING UP THE U.S. FLAG. It has recently come to our attention that some erroneous traditions are becoming more commonplace regarding U.S. Flags that are no longer usable. Many well-meaning individuals have cut up soiled or worn Flags, sometimes cutting out stars and mailing them to our troops. Although this is a thoughtful gesture and appears on the Internet in several places, it is in fact, an inappropriate act and should not be conducted by any VFW Post or Auxiliary.

In August, 2000, at the VFW 101st National Convention, delegates passed a resolution establishing a U.S. Flag disposal program by fire for Posts to conduct, privately or publicly as follows:

- 1) The Flag should be folded in its customary manner. (See VFW Ritual Book)
- 2) It is important that the fire be sizeable and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the Flag.
- 3) Place the Flag on the fire.
- 4) The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the Flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
- 5) After the Flag is completely consumed, the fire should be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.
- 6) Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

The resolution conforms to the intent and letter of the U.S. Code and the Federal Flag Code.

This is the only acceptable way of handling U.S. Flags that are no longer fit to be flown. No other handling of a retired Flag is considered acceptable.

**VFW NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVANT AWARDS.** Departments are asked to submit three nominees (one for each career area) to the VFW Programs Office no later than March 31, 2011. VFW Programs will create citations for the following awards in each Department:

- VFW National Law Enforcement Award
- VFW National Firefighter Award
- VFW National Emergency Medical Technician

Each Department will receive their three awards and contact their recipients to arrange a presentation. Department Commanders may present the awards at their Department Convention, but are encouraged to also present the award in front of the recipient's peers at a professional association event, city council meeting, etc. The purpose of the second venue is to expose these VFW awards to the general public and especially other law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMT's, many of whom are veterans eligible for VFW membership.

**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. Certificates and other awards available at VFW Store <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=22826>

**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>

**EMBLEM AND SUPPLY - VFW Store:**

**DEPARTMENT CONVENTION - *BEAT THE RUSH*** Order your Department convention awards and gifts. Click here <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=205>

Call to see how we can help on special orders for your convention - shirts, caps, etc. Make us your One-Stop Shopping source for all your VFW needs. 1-800-821-2606 or email [scutright@vfw.org](mailto:scutright@vfw.org)

**MEMORIAL DAY** – May 31, 2010 – Fly your Flag Order early for Memorial Day events  
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=238>

- 30 -