

# NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN



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

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

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### "HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES"

#### 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>.

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](http://www.vfw.org) or [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://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/content/WWII-in-HD](http://History.com/content/WWII-in-HD).

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 May 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.

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 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.

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.

HALF-STAFF U.S. FLAG ON DECEMBER 7: Public Law 103-308, passed in 1994, designates December 7th as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" and requests the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff (sunrise to sunset) in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on that day. To order a flag, go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=100>.

VFW PROMOTES NATIONAL GROUNDHOG JOB SHADOW DAY, FEBRUARY 2. Over one million students across America will experience firsthand 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 web site [www.jobshadow.org](http://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:**

POST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. Commemorate your Post's anniversary in Buddy Poppy style! As your Post celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years, order special silver-, gold-, or diamond-colored Poppies for distribution throughout this monumental year.

Remember: With Buddy Poppy, every day is Veterans Day.

- No extra cost for the commemorative poppies.
- Designate part of your regular poppy order as anniversary poppies.
- Different sizes of ads can be found at [www.vfwdepartmentresources.com](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.com). Click on the VFW Cross of Malta beside Buddy Poppy option.

Contact information: [nclifton@vfw.org](mailto:nclifton@vfw.org) (816) 968-1148. For Buddy Poppy merchandise go to <http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResults.aspx?CategoryID=128>.

#### **QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, OPERATIONS:**

**High Limit Term Life Insurance** sponsored by VFW National Headquarters offers coverage limits of \$100,000 to \$3,000,000. To receive a quote online, visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com) or call 1-800-715-5836, ext. 6829.

**Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Part D – Prescription Drug Plans** are available through Pinnacle Financial Services. For more information, visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com) or call 1-800-772-6882.

**Guaranteed Rate Mortgage** offers paid-in-full VFW life memberships. To find out more visit <https://www.guaranteedrate.com/apply/vfw.php> or call 1-877-291-6965.

**VFW Post Insurance** – Affordable insurance designed specifically to meet the unique insurance needs of VFW Posts. Property, Liquor Liability, General Liability, Workers' Compensation, Special Events and more. For a free, no-obligation quote, visit [www.vfwinsurance.com](http://www.vfwinsurance.com) or call the VFW Post Insurance Program at 1-800-829-8390.

#### **DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:**

**Make a Note on Your 2010 VFW Calendar** – It's not too late to lend your support to veterans in need through the 2010 VFW Calendar Program. Your support of this important effort helps your VFW Department serve veterans in need throughout the year. If you haven't done so already, please send as generous a gift as you can. Veterans in your area – and across the country – are counting on you!

**Show Your Patriotism** – Demonstrate your support of veterans, as well as your patriotism, by using your VFW Stars and Stripes address labels, which were mailed on the first of November. Please consider a donation to the VFW to help those comrades most in need of assistance – your donations are greatly appreciated and will be put to work immediately right in your own VFW Department and across the country.

**Send a Message of Joy and Remembrance** – Festive 2009 VFW Christmas cards have recently arrived in mailboxes across the country. Use your VFW Christmas cards to show your friends and family how much you support America and the VFW. During this holiday season, please try to set aside some time to visit a hospitalized veteran or even a veteran you may know in your community, to let them know they have not been forgotten. And remember, your support of this important program helps assist needy veterans throughout the year.

**As the 2009 Holiday Season Approaches** – Please remember you can help raise money for veterans by using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) this holiday season and every day of the year. To help VFW raise money, all you have to do is go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and choose Veterans of Foreign Wars – VFW (Kansas City) as the organization you “GoodSearch” for, and search away! Every search you perform raises money for VFW! GoodShop by GoodSearch works the same way. For every

item purchased through GoodShop, VFW will get a portion of the purchase price as a donation. Check it out today!

**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 donate to the VFW. 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.

**Department Resources** – Visit [www.vfwdepartmentresources.org](http://www.vfwdepartmentresources.org) – your place for the latest program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department. Download ad slicks, press releases, banner ads and buttons for your department publications and/or website. Recent mailings and mailing schedules are also posted on a regular basis. While you're there, be sure to click on these icons: Promotional Tools, What's New, and Mailings. Use the Department Resources website to help strengthen your department programs. Check it out today!

**Friends of Freedom** – If you are not yet a member of VFW's online community, please visit [www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom](http://www.vfw.org/friendsoffreedom) to sign up! **Friends of Freedom** is open to everyone. There is no cost or obligation to join – and you can opt-out at any time. **Friends of Freedom** members stay “in the know” about the work VFW does to serve all our heroes. Join today, and you will receive periodic e-mails containing inspiring stories from the home front and the front line, key legislative updates, special “insider information” and so much more.

**VFW at Work!** – Please be sure to visit [www.vfw.org/vfwatwork](http://www.vfw.org/vfwatwork) to read the inspiring stories of how VFW Departments, Posts and individuals are reaching out to America's defenders and their families. You can sign up to receive the monthly VFW at Work! e-newsletter by clicking on the link to “Join Friends of Freedom.” Don't forget to check the site often to see all the new success stories of veterans and military families being helped by VFW. Be sure to click on the “Read More Stories” link at the bottom of the page to view an archive of VFW success stories from fellow members around the country.

## **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>
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 ( <b><u>WEDNESDAY - MUST BE</u></b> )

**RECEIVED IN DUES PROCESSING BY NOON FOR YEAR END CLOSING)**

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: We have lists that you can work to help build up your membership. Please call the National Membership Department for assistance.

### **VFW STORE/EMBLEM & SUPPLY:**

***1<sup>st</sup> TIME EVER - SPECIAL OFFER*** - Commander-in-Chief Tommy Tradewell's logo on a Cutter & Buck jacket <http://www.vfwstore.org/detail.aspx?ID=29362>

**VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2009** Show Your Pride and Patriotism  
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=238>

**BUDDY POPPY merchandise** – order today to receive in time for Veterans Day events  
<http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryID=128>

### **DEPARTMENT REBATE CHECKS**

Per SEC 715 of the BY-LAWS, you should have received your department check for 10% of the net profits, based on sales in your department. This reinforces the importance of buying and promoting merchandise from the VFW Store, as it benefits all levels of the VFW. Make the VFW Store your ***1-Stop Shopping*** for all your VFW and Patriotic needs and encourage your Post, Auxiliary, and members to do the same.

Free ad slicks and editorials are available for your Department newsletters by emailing [scutright@vfw.org](mailto:scutright@vfw.org). By banding together and keeping the money within the VFW, we can make a bigger impact in furthering our mission. Go to [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org).

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

**CHOCOLATE FOR AFGHANISTAN...**NMS has received a request from a SMSgt in Afghanistan asking for chocolate for the service members during the holidays. Our office has emailed all major candy companies and so far there has been no interest in this request. Please consider forwarding this request to your Post/Districts/Auxiliary and help the 57,000+ service members currently serving in Afghanistan. One flat rate box of candy from each Post/District/Auxiliary/Department would provide plenty of chocolate for the deployed service members. This is a good window of opportunity as Halloween candy is on sale! Please contact the NMS office at 816-756-3390 for mailing information. Thank you for your support!

### **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](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!**

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](http://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](http://www.sprint.com/vfw) or call 1-866-869-6686 today.

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 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.

## **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](http://www.vfw.org). Just click on the *Capitol Hill* section.

## **ROLL CALL OF DEPARTED COMRADES:**

BERG, EARL L., Commander, Department of Iowa, 1967-1968 and a Life Member of John W. Brawford Post 3388, Estherville, Iowa, October 10, 2009.

GOLDSMITH, JAMES N., Past Commander-in-Chief, 2001-2002, All American Department Commander, 1982-1983, All American District Commander, 1976-1977, a Gold Legacy Life Member and Post Service Officer of Lawrence W. Smith Post 4139, Lapeer, Michigan, October 3, 2009.