1. Having been elected Commander-in-Chief and having been installed in office in accordance with the By-Laws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I hereby assume command.

2. The following officers have been duly elected and installed by the 114th National Convention will be accorded the recognition due them:

   Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief
   John W. Stroud, Post 2313, Hawthorne, Nevada

   Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief
   John A. Biedrzycki, Jr., Post 418, Mc Kees Rocks, Pennsylvania

   Quartermaster General
   Robert B. Greene, Post 7397, Lenexa, Kansas

   Chaplain
   Robert H. “Bob” Dickerson, Post 9186, San Antonio, Texas

   Judge Advocate General
   Harold M. “Hal” Burke, Jr., Post 1895, Schenectady, New York

   Surgeon General
   Peter T. Buchanan, Post 1771, Lafayette, Colorado

National Council of Administration Members

   Alabama  George H. Jones, Post 6073, Scottsboro, Alabama
   Alaska    Robert A. Myles, Post 1685, Anchorage, Alaska
   Arizona   Timothy M. “Tim” Borland, Post 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona
   Arkansas  Michael K. Nuckolls, Post 2330, Searcy, Arkansas
   California Denis F. Wells, Post 8327, Livingston, California
   Colorado  Ronald J. Lattin, Post 5061, Denver, Colorado
   Connecticut Richard G. DiFederico, Jr., Post 7330, Oakville, Connecticut
   Delaware  John R. Morrow, Post 475, Newark, Delaware
   Dist. of Columbia Herman C. Salley, Post 2979, Washington, DC
   Europe    Peter J. Mascetti, Post 27, Wiesbaden, Germany
   Florida   A. E. “Gene” Hall, Post 7909, Jacksonville, Florida
   Georgia   Dean E. Smith, Post 5290, Conyers, Georgia
   Hawaii    Norbert K. Enos, Post 2875, Honolulu, Hawai
   Idaho     John R. Crotinger, Post 3520, Grangeville, Idaho
   Illinois  J. D. “Butch” Spindler, Post 4549, Robinson, Illinois
   Indiana   Richard M. “Rick” Faulk, Post 2839, Indianapolis, Indiana
   Iowa      Darrell A. Blasberg, Post 2208, Waverly, Iowa
   Kansas    James T. “J. T.” Plummer, Post 8873, Stockton, Kansas
   Kentucky  Bernard J. “Brian” Duffy, Post 1170, Middletown, Kentucky
   Latin America/Carib Jose A. Claudio, Post 3822, Panama City, Republic of Panama
   Louisiana Federico M. “Max” Arends, III, Post 5951, Bossier City, Louisiana
   Maine     Raymond R. Lupo, Post 4633, Hampden, Maine
   Maryland  Eugene L. “Gene” Stewart, Post 5838, Joppatowne, Maryland
   Massachusetts George D. Murray, Post 1018, Boston, Massachusetts
   Michigan  John H. “Jack” Pray, Post 3243, Fenton, Michigan
   Minnesota Donald W. “Don” Nix, Post 5518, Elk River, Minnesota
   Mississippi Johnnie L. Richard, Post 2539, Gulfport, Mississippi
   Missouri  Jessie L. Jones, Post 2657, Fulton, Missouri
   Montana   Timothy C. Peters, Post 10010, East Helena, Montana
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Post/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Dan G. Petersen, Post 131</td>
<td>Lincoln, Nebraska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Herman C. Hagen, Jr., Post 10468</td>
<td>Searchlight, Nevada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Paul J. Lloyd, Post 1631</td>
<td>Concord, New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Manuel “Manny” Almeida, Post 2226</td>
<td>Oakhurst, New Jersey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Allan W. “Ski” Kuchinsky, Post 7686</td>
<td>Alamogordo, New Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>James F. McNally, Post 53</td>
<td>Jamestown, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>James C. Goins, Jr., Post 9811</td>
<td>Kings Mountain, North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>Dale T. Ronning, Post 7564</td>
<td>West Fargo, North Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Richard R. “Dick” Uzl, Jr., Post 7727</td>
<td>Brooklyn, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Harlan “Jay” Bjorgo, Post 7322</td>
<td>Perkins, Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Bert W. Key, Post 4273</td>
<td>Sandy, Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Areas</td>
<td>Gerald L. “Jerry” Kraus, Post 1509</td>
<td>Yigo, Guam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Robert C. Eiler, Post 8805</td>
<td>Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Allen C. Wagonblott, Jr., Post 5392</td>
<td>Tiverton, Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Francis M. “Frank” Fogner, Post 10804</td>
<td>North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Russel L. Dramstad, Post 1776</td>
<td>Huron, South Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>John H. Scott, Post 4848</td>
<td>Chattanooga, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Dennis M. “Mike” Barber, Post 3892</td>
<td>Harker Heights, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Brent W. Neilsen, Post 10900</td>
<td>Moab, Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>Ronald L. “Ron” Tallman, Post 790</td>
<td>Barre, Vermont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>James K. “Jim” Martin, Post 1503</td>
<td>Dale City, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Jerry W. Herker, Post 3386</td>
<td>Airway Heights, Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Charles E. “Chuck” Haney, Post 7048</td>
<td>East Fairmont, West Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>Allen W. “Al” Kochenderfer, Post 10406</td>
<td>Cochrane, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>James “Jim” Pedersen, Post 2673</td>
<td>Cody, Wyoming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

Adjutant General
- John E. Hamilton, Post 7909, Jacksonville, Florida

National Chief of Staff
- David G. “Dave” Havely, Post 5864, Greenwood, Indiana

Inspector General
- Terry W. Vance, Post 9789, Fairbury, Illinois

Assistant Adjutant General & Executive Director, Washington Office
- Robert E. Wallace, Post 9503, Bayville, New Jersey

Assistant Adjutant General, Operations
- Jerry L. Newberry, Post 2492, Imlay City, Michigan

Legal Director/General Counsel
- John R. Muckelbauer, Post 3712, Paola, Kansas

Director, Administration & Operations, Washington Office
- Fredrick W. Burns, Post 2562, Silver Spring, Maryland

Director, Administrative Operations
- Kevin C. Jones, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Communications & Public Affairs, Washington
- Joseph E. Davis, Post 3391, Pago Pago, American Samoa

Director, Human Resources
- Debra L. Anderson, Post 7356, Parkville, Missouri

Director, Membership
- Robert A. Crider, Post 2801, Villa Park, Illinois

Director, National Legislative Service
- Raymond C. Kelley, Post 160, Glen Burnie, Maryland
5. For purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men’s organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary.

6. Every Post chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will be expected to participate in the following programs during the 2013-2014 year: Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, National Citizenship Education Teacher’s Awards, Buddy Poppy and National Military Services. Additionally, it is necessary that all Post and Department Commanders comply with all provisions of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

7. Post Commanders and District Commanders are directed to forward all resolutions or communications relative to federal legislation or to the policy or procedure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other governmental agency, to their respective Department Headquarters for consideration and referral to the Adjutant General. Department Commanders will not take direct action on any such resolutions or communications without first obtaining full knowledge of existing National Headquarters policies governing such legislation or agencies. Posts, County Councils, Districts and officers and members thereof shall not publicly communicate or promulgate any such resolutions until reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief.

8. DEPARTMENT RESERVE: Attention is called to section 518(a)(4)(f), Manual of Procedure which requires Department Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

9. POST RESERVE: Attention is directed to section 218(a)(5)(f), Manual of Procedure which mandates Post Quartermasters to maintain a dues reserve fund as prescribed in sections 717 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

10. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to action of the National Council of Administration prohibiting the wearing of VFW sport caps and/or western style caps at VFW meetings in place of the regulation cap of the VFW official uniform as set forth in sections 803 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure. This prohibition is in accordance with previous directives of Commanders-in-Chief that it is held to be objectionable and contrary to accepted rules of order and proper decorum implicit in the ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to permit the wearing of other than the official VFW cap at VFW meetings.

11. Attention of commanders at all levels is directed to section 703 of the National By-Laws which requires that each accountable officer be bonded with an indemnity company in the sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he may be accountable.

12. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 218(a)(11)(b), Manual of Procedure, Trustees, which states that Post Trustees shall prepare and submit quarterly, through their Post Commander, a Post Trustees’ Report of Audit (VFW Store product #4214) to the Department Quartermaster for referral.
to the Department Inspector. The first report is due at the close of September. Do not mail these reports to National Headquarters.

13. Attention of Department and Post Commanders is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990 and 990/T, where applicable. Forms may be secured from your local Post Office or branch office of the Internal Revenue Service.

14. Posts are urged to start planning suitable programs now for the observance of Veterans Day (see section 223 of the Manual of Procedure).

15. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to section 1001 (24) of the Manual of Procedure concerning alcoholic beverages in the Post meeting room during the Post meeting: “The presence, dispensation, and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages in VFW meeting rooms during VFW meetings is unacceptable and is prohibited.”

16. A thorough program of Post inspection is necessary to ensure compliance with National and Department By-Laws and directives. Department and District Inspectors shall make every effort to inspect every Post under their cognizance on an annual basis and correct such discrepancies as may be disclosed.

17. The distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies will be conducted according to the provisions set forth in sections 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. All profits accruing from the distribution of Buddy Poppies shall be used in accordance with section 704 of the National By-Laws and the Manual of Procedure.

18. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts:

- Post Nos. 6049 and 12015 consolidated as Post No. 6049, Morris, Illinois
- Post Nos. 1322 and 6465 consolidated as Post No. 1322, Van Buren, Arkansas
- Post Nos. 10218 and 3089 consolidated as Post No. 10218, El Monte, California
- Post Nos. 9469 and 2787 consolidated as Post No. 9469, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Post Nos. 4207 and 4205 consolidated as Post No. 4207, Monett, Missouri
- Post Nos. 2978 and 1612 consolidated as Post No. 2978, Chicago, Illinois
- Post Nos. 2227 and 865 consolidated as Post No. 2227, Colby, Wisconsin
- Post Nos. 3466 and 9248 consolidated as Post No. 3466, Charleston, West Virginia
- Post Nos. 7835 and 9181 consolidated as Post No. 7835, Granbury, Texas
- Post Nos. 10354 and 6388 consolidated as Post No. 10354, El Paso, Texas

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

- Post No. 12132 – Maggie Valley, North Carolina

BY COMMAND OF
WILLIAM A. THIEN
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OFFICIAL:

John E. Hamilton
Adjutant General
PLANNING CALENDAR

SCHEDULE OF VFW MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Rev. August 2013

2013

August 18 - 23  NVS Basic/Phase I Skill Level Training  
                Annapolis, MD

August 23  National Budget & Finance Committee Meeting  
           Kansas City, MO

August 24 - 25  National Council of Administration Meeting  
                Kansas City, MO

September 12 - 15  Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming  
                   Indianapolis, IN

September 16 - 19  Fall Legislative Committee Meeting  
                   Washington, DC

September 19 - 21  National President's Homecoming  
                   New Orleans, LA

October 10 - 13  Junior Vice Commander's Conference  
                 (with Adjutant/Quartermasters)  
                 Kansas City, MO

October 18 - 20  Big Ten Conference  
                 Rolling Meadows, IL

October 31 - November 3  Southern Conference  
                        Orlando, FL

October 31 - November 3  Western Conference  
                        Portland, OR

November 8 - 10  Eastern States Conference  
                 Washington, DC

November 17 - 21  NVS Advanced Skill Level Training  
                 Annapolis, MD

2014

March 1 - 5  Voice of Democracy  
            Washington, DC

March 2 - 6  Legislative Conference  
            Washington, DC

March 4  Senior Vice Commander's Meeting  
         Washington, DC

April 6 - 9  NVS Proficiency Training  
            Annapolis, MD

July 19 - 23  National Convention  
             St. Louis, MO

August 14 - 17  Commander-in-Chief's Homecoming  
                Reno, NV
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 17 - 22</td>
<td>NVS Basic/Phase I Skill Level Training</td>
<td>Annapolis, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 22</td>
<td>National Budget &amp; Finance Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23 - 24</td>
<td>National Council of Administration Meeting</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 11 - 14</td>
<td>National President’s Homecoming</td>
<td>Mystic, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15 - 18</td>
<td>Fall Legislative Committee Meeting</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9 - 12</td>
<td>Junior Vice Commander’s Conference (with Adjutant/Quartermasters)</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6 - 9</td>
<td>Southern Conference</td>
<td>Charleston, WV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 16 - 20</td>
<td>NVS Advanced Skill Level Training</td>
<td>Annapolis, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28 - March 4</td>
<td>Voice of Democracy</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1 - 5</td>
<td>Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Senior Vice Commander’s Meeting</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18 - 22</td>
<td>National Convention</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 17 - 20</td>
<td>National President’s Homecoming</td>
<td>Anchorage, AK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1 - 3</td>
<td>Commander-in-Chief’s Homecoming</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, PA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19 - 22</td>
<td>Southern Conference</td>
<td>Savannah, GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27 - March 2</td>
<td>Voice of Democracy</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28 - March 3</td>
<td>Legislative Conference</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Senior Vice Commander’s Meeting</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 23 - 27</td>
<td>National Convention</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 22 - 26</td>
<td>National Convention</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018
July 21 - 25  National Convention
            Kansas City, MO
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 11 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 2013-2014 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 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award program. 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 1, 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 2013-2014 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 Event.
A program brochure (designed to be duplicated for distribution) can be viewed at www.vfw.org/uploadedFiles/VFW.org/Community/Teacher%20Award%20Brochure.PDF or ordered through www.vfwstore.org or by calling 1-800-821-2606 and asking for item #4450.

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

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 February 1, 2013. 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.

SPECIAL NOTICE – COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING. Recognizing that VFW and Ladies Auxiliary programs and chairmanships do not always coincide, we must find a way to establish an accurate accounting of the efforts and dollars expended by both organizations. Therefore, the following will apply for the 2013-2014 program year:

All VFW Post chairmen will report to their respective Department Chairman at least twice yearly in a timely fashion so as to allow the Department Chairman to report to the VFW National Programs office in June and December. The VFW Post chairman’s report should include whether or not their Ladies Auxiliary participated.

The Ladies Auxiliary Chairmen of the different programs should report to their corresponding Department Chairmen in whatever way that Department asks them to and by the dates specified. The Ladies Auxiliary Department Chairmen will report to the VFW Community Service Chairman in the way that has been established by that Department and by the dates specified. The VFW Department and Ladies Auxiliary Department should coordinate to be sure that hours, dollars and volunteers are reported as best as possible so that mid-year and year-end figures proudly display the collective hard work of the organizations.

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 18 (third Saturday in May); Memorial Day, May 27 (last Monday in May); Flag Day, June 14; National POW/MIA Day, September 21 (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:

VETERANS DAY BUDDY POPPY CAMPAIGN. Plans should be under way for the Veterans Day Buddy Poppy Campaign. Contact your Department Quartermaster to place your order for Buddy Poppies. Remember that your Poppies should be ordered a minimum of 12 weeks in advance of your distribution date. Be sure to specify a date by which the poppies are required; do not use, “ASAP”.
Miscellaneous items (coin cans, caps, buttons, posters, etc.) should be ordered directly from the VFW Store at [http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryId=128](http://www.vfwstore.org/SearchResult.aspx?CategoryId=128) or the VFW Store/Emblem and Supply Catalog.

The Manual of Procedure provides that post relief funds may be used for programs such as Voice of Democracy, Youth Essay, Citizenship Education, and Community Service as long as suggestions in the chairmen guidebooks are used as an example of promoting these programs.

Posts are further reminded that Section 711 of the Manual of Procedure provides that non-profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist with the distribution of Buddy Poppies, provided there shall be no division of proceeds. A donation to these groups may be made from the post general fund.

**MEMBERSHIP:**

**MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTAL DEADLINES FOR THE 2013-2014 YEAR:**

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mailed Date</th>
<th>Processing Deadlines*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JULY 25</td>
<td>JULY 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPTEMBER 25</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 25</td>
<td>NOVEMBER 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Must be processed by VFW national headquarters by the processing deadlines above in order to prevent the receipt of a subsequent mailed dues notice.

**FOR CONTEST PURPOSES**

*All membership transmittals must be received in dues processing by noon on the last business day prior to any contest end-date and for year-end processing.

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:**

- **Annual Dues:** Resolution M-12 (Sec. 606 – National Dues) was passed at the 114th National Convention in Louisville, KY. The resolution raised the Veterans of Foreign Wars Annual Dues National Per Capita from $11.50 to $21.50. This increase will take effect on **January 1, 2014**.

- **Recruiting Notes:** Encourage Annual Members to take advantage of the Life Member Installment plan. Encourage life installment plan members to take advantage of the automatic payment option.

- **Shotgun Mailing Lists:** We can obtain lists that will assist you in increasing your membership. Please call Matt Nute in the Membership Department at 1-888-JOIN-VFW (1-888-564-6839) for assistance.

- **National Membership Program:** The 2013-2014 National Membership Program is listed in the Leadership Reference Material guide. This can be viewed online via the OMS system.

- **Dues Notices:** An electronic dues notice will be sent to all continuous and lapsed and lapsed members on July 1, 2013. The first mailed dues notice, also sent to lapsed and continuous
Subscription Dues: The subscription dues resolution was approved at the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Subscription dues training was given at the 114th National Convention in Louisville, KY. **Subscription dues will begin January 1, 2014.**

Subscription Dues Training: The subscription dues training location is located is [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), click on “Log In”, when the page loads, go to the “View Training Materials” link in red. The subscription dues presentation is under the link “Subscription Dues.” Please visit: [https://www.vfw.org/oms/TrainingMaterials.aspx](https://www.vfw.org/oms/TrainingMaterials.aspx)

Legacy Life Membership: This prestigious program is available to all Life Members. Three levels of membership each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits. Financial contributions to the Legacy Life Member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrollment Cost:</th>
<th>Annual Payouts:</th>
<th>Post:</th>
<th>Department:</th>
<th>National:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levels:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold- $1200</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver- $800</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze-$400</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What will your Legacy be?

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

Over the last decade, more than 80% of support received from VFW members and patriotic Americans was applied directly to veterans service, community service, legislative advocacy and military service programs worldwide.

Patriotic Labels – Late in July the VFW mailed out a special set of Patriotic Address Labels with some bonus gifts for you to use and show your patriotism. In that package, we also included a special Veterans Day card for you to sign and return to the VFW. If you haven’t had a chance to sign and return the special Veterans Day card, please do so we can distribute them to hospitalized veterans and service members on Veterans Day this year. It is such a great way to show fellow veterans and service members they are remembered and appreciated on such an important day. When you do return your signed card, please also send a generous gift to help the VFW. Your generous gifts keep the life-changing programs going strong for veterans and service members right in your own Department.

Announcing the VFW’s Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2013 – This month we are mailing out a special announcement with a preview of the VFW’s Special Edition Christmas Cards for 2013. It is still summer, but all too soon summer will be over and the holidays will be approaching before we know it! You will also notice a special magnifier attached to the letter in this package. Your new pocket magnifier is a reminder that the VFW is committed to bringing the invisible wounds of war into focus, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Each time you use it, remember your fellow veterans need you to help them take their struggles with the invisible wounds of war from being lost in the small print to the headlines! We are also asking you to consider making some time to visit a hospitalized or homebound veteran in your community. Visit heroes.vfw.org/volunteer to find out about volunteering at your local VA facility. And please, remember that VFW programs would not be available without the generosity of its members. Your donations to the VFW help support programs for veterans and service members right in your own Department.
You’re Invited! – You’re invited to join a unique and elite group that will have an impact on the VFW and the veterans it serves for years to come—the VFW Hero’s Circle! For more information on how to join this exclusive group, contact the Planned Giving office at (816) 968-1119 or email at plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Have you heard about the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate unwanted mail. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of $10) 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 joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318 or email us at partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

VFW Friends of Freedom – If you are not already a member of the VFW’s online community, please visit www.vfw.org and look for “STAY IN THE KNOW” to sign up. Members of this special online community will receive our monthly e-newsletter with new stories about how the VFW is fighting for veterans’ rights, assisting veterans in need, educating our youth and aiding military families across the nation. These stories can also be found by visiting www.vfw.org/vfwatwork and clicking on “Story Archive.” Check back often to see newly posted stories! Also, as a member of the VFW’s Friends of Freedom, you will receive special emails with breaking VFW news, legislative alerts and unique opportunities to help the VFW in assisting our nation’s veterans, service members and their families.

Department Resources – All the same great resources are still available for your Department to use. You need only go to www.vfw.org and log in. You will find “Department Resources” under the “How to Get Involved” heading. The latest program information, ideas and promotional tools from the Development Department can be found here. 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. Use the Department Resources tools to help strengthen your Department programs. Check it out today!

MEMBER BENEFITS:

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance (AD&D) provides protection to you and your family in the event of an unintentional injury or death. Upon enrollment in the VFW Voluntary AD&D program, VFW members are guaranteed acceptance regardless of any other life, accident or health coverage they may have. This valuable coverage is available for purchase in addition to the $1,000 No-Cost Personal Accident Insurance provided to members in good standing. Call 1-800-749-6983 or visit www.vfwinurance.com for details.

VFW Insurance

For information about various insurance plans sponsored by VFW National, please visit www.vfwinurance.com.

NATIONAL MILITARY SERVICES (NMS):

Don’t forget to check out www.vfw.org/nms for all current NMS forms and applications.

Thanks to all of you that stopped by our booth and workshop during the National Convention in Louisville, KY!
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SERVICE/ACTION CORPS:

Sign-up for the VFW Action Corps
AND
Join us in our fight to Preserve Veterans’ and Military Benefits

By signing up for the VFW Action Corps you will receive the Washington Weekly e-newsletter and VFW Action Alerts.

The Washington Weekly keeps you informed of what VFW is doing for veterans, service members and their spouses on Capitol Hill. The Weekly notifies you of all key meetings and Congressional hearings in which the VFW is involved, linking you to the full hearing and our written testimony on issues like veteran health care and benefits, military transition issues, military benefits and many others.

Our Action Alerts provides you the opportunity to be a part of the loud and well respected voice of the VFW. These alerts give you immediate access to legislative battles that will affect current and future veterans benefits, and they provide you the tools to tell Congress where the VFW stands on issues and how we want them to vote. This is our strongest tool in preserving and advancing veterans benefits!

It’s time to be part of the solution. Take five minutes to sign-up and join our Advocacy Team today! Use the link provided here www.vfw.org/weekly.

* The Washington Weekly is published each Friday and sent directly to your email inbox. Action Alerts will also come directly to your inbox, but are distributed only when critical action must be taken on Capitol Hill (on average, ten times per year).

VFW STORE:

Check out VFW Store's new items: ties, zippo lighters, ball caps, boonie hats, coins, tie chain, lighted auto accessories, jewelry, and more! Go to “What’s New” at www.vfwstore.org or look for your new catalog in the mail.

Coming Soon! VFW Store is excited about launching its new website – check back soon to see the new features!