

LETTER NEW MEMBERS FROM OIF AND OEF

(Use this letter template to welcome a new member who is veteran of the War on Terror. You should send the letter as soon as possible after receiving the person's membership application. Sending this letter will show the new member that you are interested in more than just his/her dues, and that you want them to be an active member. Attach a separate sheet with your Post officer contact information, Post hours, upcoming events and other information so the new member can easily become active. It's important to send this letter even if the new member is deployed.)

Commander's Name

Post Name/Address

Dear (name of new member):

As Commander of Post ____, and on behalf of the other members of our Post, we welcome you into the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. We're proud to call our organization the most elite combat veterans organization in the world and we are honored to have veterans of the War on Terror join our ranks. We believe you will see how our programs, activities and camaraderie earn us this distinction, and that you will benefit in many ways from membership.

VPW membership is first and foremost about serving veterans—we take care of our fellow comrades and their families. By being an active member, you will enjoy a high level of camaraderie among our members. You will always have someone to talk to about your experiences in a combat zone, and we'll offer you the support needed to help balance your military experiences with civilian life. As a new veteran, we can help you learn about the benefits and services you earned, which may come in the form of monetary compensation, VA healthcare and/or other benefits. It's critical that veterans apply for benefit programs quickly upon return from service, and our Service Officers can help you get connected.

Our Post welcomes veterans from all service eras—including young veterans like you who served honorably in defense of freedom and against terrorism. We view your service and contribution to peace as important as duty in previous wars. We are always looking for new energy, younger members and creative ideas to keep our Post strong and vibrant. So stop by a few times to introduce yourself to other members and to meet our Post leaders. You'll learn that we are a family who takes care of each other.

Like other veterans, we made our nation stronger by proudly wearing a military uniform. VPW members remain committed to making life in America all that it can be for everyone. We hope you will participate in our efforts to serve veterans, the military and our community through programs like _____, _____ and _____.

You've already earned membership in our distinguished organization through your military service. Now join your brothers and sisters at Post ____ as we support and serve each other.

Yours in comradeship,

Post ____ Commander