

IGNITE, UNITE, & PUSH FORWARD

PROGRAMS BOOK 2026 - 2027



Be part of the Solution & Positive Evolution, Not Part of the Problem!
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2026-2027 Program Chairpersons

Appointment	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email
Arthritis / Diabetes Chairperson	Roger	Miller	717-654-1446	rfmillervfw@gmail.com
Barger Scholarship Chairperson	Roxann	Shearer	717-654-2453	rox_usn_07@hotmail.com
Buddy Poppy Chairperson	Ian	Sparrow	570-250-8497	fourpaws@epix.net
By-Laws Chairperson	Roger	Miller	717-654-1446	rfmillervfw@gmail.com
Citizenship Education Chairperson	Karen	Kline	717-557-6878	kar7kl@aol.com
Community Service /Coloring Contest Chairperson	Monica	Austin	814-558-2224	mbcst4@aol.com
Combat Tested Gaming Co-Chairperson	Zackary	Portser	724-640-3400	zackary.portser@gmail.com
Combat Tested Gaming Co-Chairperson	Bob	Heriford	719-494-6182	firstsgt1978@gmail.com
Health Care Award Chairperson	Ruth	Altman	724-544-4745	fairchildra64@aol.com
Homeless Veterans Chairperson	David	Gyger	570-840-0847	djc57@verizon.net
Loyalty Day / Veterans Court / Student Veterans Chairperson	Jeffrey	Puckett	717-877-5702	jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com
National Home Chairperson	Benjamin	Mastridge	267-254-9062	bensarmy@hotmail.com
Patriots Pen Chairperson	William	Lamond	570-241-5875	ta30chev@gmail.com
POW / MIA Chairperson	Ronald	Peters	814-366-1698	acavrp@hotmail.com
Safety Chairperson	Brian	Delaney	570-575-3589	vfwpost4712adj@outlook.com
VFW Motorcycle Riders Chairperson	Anthony	Warner	412-983-8669	anthony@gowarner.com
Veterans and Military Service Chairperson	Craig	Fisher	717- 405-0980	cofish17@windstream.net
Voice of Democracy Chairperson	Vince	Gavin	570-862-2955	Vincentdangavin@gmail.com
Women Veterans Chairperson	Amy	MacKenzie	717-575-3982	pawomenvets@gmail.com
Youth Activities / Scouting Chairperson	Randy	Rice	717-814-7914	randy-rice@live.com

2026-2027 Planning Calendar

2026

June 19	Juneteenth (Department HQ Closed June 22 nd)
July 4	Independence Day (Department HQ closed July 3 rd)
July 10-11	Flying Squadron - Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center 215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA 16803 (Invitation Only)
July 11	PTI #1 – Selinsgrove VFW Post 6631 – District 17 (5:00 PM) 940 Route 522, Selinsgrove, PA 17870 (570) 374-3912
July 12	PTI #2 – Elk Mountain VFW Post 8488 - District 14 (9:00 AM) 8212 State Route 106, Kingsley, PA 18826 (570) 222-9820
July 12	PTI #3 – Butler, O'Connor McCormick VFW Post #106 District 9 (6:00 PM) 837 Lincoln Ave, West Chester, PA 19380 610-696-5858
July 13	PTI #4 – Fox Eichelberger VFW Post #7415 District 18 (6:00 PM) 109 3 rd Street, New Cumberland, PA 17070 (717) 774-5868
July 18	PTI #5 - King David VFW Post #1132 District 19 (9:00 AM) 95 Wetmore Ave, Kane, PA 16735 (814) 837-6630
July 18	PTI #6 – Bruce Shorts VFW Post 5958 District 28 (5:00 PM) 206 St John St, Titusville, PA 16354 (814-827-6223)
July 19	PTI #7 – Junction City VFW Post #128 District 25 (9:00 AM) 179 Virginia Ave, Rochester, (724) 774-4378
July 19	PTI #8 – J Howard Snyder VFW Post #781 District 27 (6:00 PM) 10 Billott Ave, Irwin, PA 15642 (724) 863-1515
July 20	PTI #9 – Standing Stone VFW Post 1754 District 30 (6:00 PM) 520 Penn St, Huntingdon, PA 16652 (814) 643-4141
July 25-29	National Convention Reno, NV
September 7:	Labor Day (Department HQ Closed)
September 11	Patriot's Day
September 18	POW-MIA Day

September 27	Gold Star Mother's Day
October 12	Columbus Day (Department HQ (Closed))
November 1-9	Eastern Conference – Garmisch, Germany
November 3	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day (Department HQ Closed)
November 13-15	Commander's Testimonial – Ambassador Conference Center, Erie, PA
November 26 -27	Thanksgiving Holiday (Department HQ Closed)
December 24 -25	Christmas Holiday (Department HQ Closed)
December 31-Jan 1	New Year's Holiday (Department HQ Closed)

2027

January 18	Martin Luther King Jr (Department HQ Closed)
January 28-31	Mid-Winter Conference, Penn Stater Hotel, State College, PA
February 15	President's Day (Department HQ Closed)
Feb 27-March 4	Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
March 5-7	Women Veterans Conference – DoubleTree by Hilton, Reading, PA
April 9-10	Department President's Testimonial – DoubleTree Pittsburgh-Cranberry
March 26-29	Good Friday & Easter Holiday Weekend (Department HQ Closed)
May 1:	Loyalty Day
May 31:	Memorial Day (Department HQ Closed)
June 9-13	Department Convention: Ambassador Conference Center, Erie, PA
June 19	Juneteenth (Department HQ Closed)

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ALL-STATE POST/DISTRICT COMMANDERS AND QUARTERMASTER WORKSHEET

To be considered All-State, this MANDATORY All-State Worksheet MUST be completed and submitted to Department Headquarters NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2027!!!

Name: _____ Post: _____ District: _____

Commander's Hat Size: _____ Quartermaster's Hat Size: _____

MANDATORY CRITERIA

- Membership Properly Reported as attaining goal of 100% +3
- Post/District/Home Association By-Laws (if applicable) MUST be current (within 5 years)
Date: _____
- Post/Home Association MUST have Articles of Incorporation on file with Department.
Date: _____
- All Posts MUST submit a minimum of 10 Community Service Entries for 2026-2027 between July 1, 2026 and April 30, 2027
- Purchase Buddy Poppies. **Same as National** (at least 5 per Member with a MINIMUM of 500). Date: _____ Ck#: _____
- VOD Entry: YES { } NO { } (\$500 Donation may be made in lieu of entry. Check MUST be sent to Department, Earmarked VOD, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15, 2026).
- PP Entry: YES { } NO { } (\$500 Donation may be made in lieu of entry. Check MUST be sent to Department, Earmarked PP, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15, 2026).
- State Commander's Special Project (Department Veterans' Relief Fund). A Minimum donation of \$250 must be sent to Department Earmarked Special Project.
Date: _____ Ck#: _____
- Donation to VMS (minimum \$100) Date: _____ Ck#: _____
- Donation to Arthritis (minimum \$100) Date: _____ Ck#: _____
- Donation to Diabetes (minimum \$100) Date: _____ Ck#: _____
- Donation to Barger Nurse Scholarship (minimum \$100) Date: _____ Ck#: _____
- Post/District must have a submission of one EMT **OR** Firefighter **OR** Police **OR** 911 Dispatcher.
- All Post Quarterly Trustee Reports (including June 2026) must be filed with Department.
Date sent to Dept. June: _____ Sept: _____ Dec: _____ March: _____
- Post Quartermaster Bonded and recorded at Department before November 30, 2026.
- Post Commander and/or Sr. Vice and/or Jr. Vice and/or Quartermaster MUST attend ALL District Meetings. **(Post/District Commander MUST attend at a minimum two (2) District Meetings)**
- Post/District not in arrears for current or prior year (e.g. dues, audits, reports, etc)
- Post Inspection for 2026-2027 recorded with Department by January 31, 2027.
Date Inspected: _____ Inspected By: _____
- ALL-STATE Requirements must be completed between July 1, 2026 and April 30, 2027.

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To be considered Captain of the All-State, this Worksheet MUST be completed and submitted to Department Headquarters NO LATER THAN APRIL 30, 2027!!!

Point Criteria	Points Available	Points Earned
100% +15 Membership by December 31, 2026	30	
OR 100% +15 Membership by February 28, 2027	20	
OR 100% +15 Membership by April 30, 2027	15	
New Member by December 31, 2026 (Max 100pts)	1 point each	
Reinstated Member by December 31, 2026 (Max 100pts)	1 point each	
Participate in a Membership Drive (Max 100)	10 points each	
Donation to the Commander's Project (Min \$250)	20	
Donation to Teener League Baseball (Min \$100)	5 points per \$100	
Donation to Women's Veterans Conference (Min \$100)	5 points per \$100	
Donation to National Home (Min \$100)	5 points per \$100	
Post/District Inspection submitted by DEC. 31, 2026	10	
VOD Student (Donations do NOT Qualify)	10	
PP Student (Donations do NOT Qualify)	10	
Participate in a POW/MIA Ceremony	20	
Participate in a Veterans Day Ceremony	20	
Increase Community Service Donations 5%	10	
Attend PTI	10	
Attend District Meeting (Max 20pts)	5 points each	
Healthcare Award Entry	10	
Membership Retention a least 85%	20	
Safety Award Entry	10	
Entry in State Coloring Contest	10	
Property in the Name of the POST	20	
ALL-AMERICAN ACHIEVED BEFORE APRIL 30, 2027	20	

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All-American Program:

The All-American program exists to recognize exceptional leadership and teamwork, authentic accomplishment in membership growth, and participation in VFW core programs. *All-American Post Criteria*

All Posts who have met the following criteria as of June 30th, 2027 will be named as AllAmerican Posts:

- Must meet the Divisional Membership Quota as shown on the table on page 11.
- At least 80% retention of prior year Annual members. Definition of retention can be found on page 12.
- Must have a Post election report submitted and be in good standing.
- Must meet the following Program Participation Criteria by January 31, 2027:
 - o Voice of Democracy – minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Posts may donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o Patriot’s Pen – minimum of one entry advanced to District judging (Overseas Posts may donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o National Citizenship Education Teachers Award –Post must advance a teacher to District; if no District judging applies then advance to Department for judging (Overseas Post donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o Entries **must be submitted via the Programs Dashboard by January 31, 2027 in order to be recognized.**
- National Veterans Service Programs – must donate \$125 via the Programs Dashboard NVS Donation link. Donations will be designated to support the VFW National Veteran Service operations.
- Must make a restricted donation, minimum of \$75, to National in support of DPAA (Defense Personnel POW/MIA Accounting Agency). **Donations must be processed through the Programs Dashboard.**
- Must meet the following Community Service Requirements:
 - o Participation in the VFW Day of Service event held during the month of May. This event may be counted for a Post’s quarterly community service activity.
 - o A Post must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All-American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June. Please see page 12 for further details.
 - o A Post must show an increase in total Community Service of at least 5% from the previous year.
- Must purchase at least 5 Buddy Poppies per member, with a minimum of 500.
- Must have been chartered for at least a full calendar year as of July 1st, 2026. Posts that were chartered between July 1st, 2025 and June 30th, 2026 will not be eligible for AllAmerican awards, but may be recognized under the New Post Growth Grant.

All-American District Criteria

All Districts that have met the following criteria as of June 30th, 2027 will be named as All-American Districts:

- Must exceed prior year's membership, based on June 30th, 2026 totals. (100%+1)
 - Must finish in the top 20 Districts in their division, based on membership percentage as of June 30th, 2027.
 - Must make a restricted donation, minimum of \$100, to National in support of DPAA (Defense Personnel POW/MIA Accounting Agency). **Donations must be processed through the Programs Dashboard.**
 - Must have a District election report submitted and be in good standing.
 - Must meet the following Program Participation Criteria by January 31, 2027:
 - o Voice of Democracy – minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas Districts may donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o Patriot's Pen – minimum of one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas Districts may donate \$125 to National in lieu of entry)
 - o National Citizenship Education Teachers Award – one entry advanced to Department judging (Overseas District donate \$100 to National in lieu of entry)
- Entries must be submitted via the Programs Dashboard by January 31, 2027 in order to be recognized.**

All-American District Awards

All Districts that meet the listed criteria will receive an All-American District Streamer, an All-American District Commander's Citation, and recognition in the VFW Magazine.

In addition, the top 10 Districts in each membership division will receive:

- All-American District Commander's Cap
- All-American District Commander's Badge
- All-American District Commander's lapel pin

These awards for the top 10 District Commanders will be presented on stage at the 128th National Convention. All All-American District Awards will be distributed at the 128th National Convention. Department Quartermasters will be directed to collect and distribute awards for All-American Districts not in attendance.

The top two District Commanders in each division will receive a \$1,000 award to recognize their leadership. Commanders must attend the 128th National Convention in order to receive this award.



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

Arthritis Program and Diabetes Program
2026-2027

Contest Rules:

All Posts and Districts are encouraged to make a donation to these two worthwhile programs.

For every \$25.00 a Post or District donates to the Arthritis Program and / or Diabetes Program, they will be entered into a drawing for one of two (2) Life Memberships.

The drawing will be held at the next state convention.

Please Note: A \$100.00 donation to the Arthritis Program is a requirement for the All-State Membership Program.

Please Note: A \$100.00 donation to the Diabetes Program is a requirement for the All-State Membership Program.

Thank you for all your support of this program in the past and please continue your support.

Please send check to:

Department of PA VFW
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Earmark the Check "Arthritis"

If you have any questions, please contact:

Roger Miller
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Arthritis and Diabetes Chairperson

717-654-1446
rfmillervfw@gmail.com

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Jack Barger Sr. Memorial Nursing Scholarship Program
2026-2027**



A Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund was established at the 1989 VFW State Convention held in King of Prussia, PA. This fund is in honor of Jack E. Barger Sr., Department Commander, 1987-1988, who passed away during his term of office.

A \$500.00 scholarship was awarded in 1990 and over the past 30+ years, the amounts and number of scholarships awarded has increased to six (6) \$1,000.00 scholarships per year. The two main efforts to raise money for these scholarships are requesting donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and the Annual Barger Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble.

Candidates for this award are self-nominated through the Nursing Foundation of Pennsylvania (NFP). The recipient(s) will be chosen by means of a lottery conducted by the VFW Chairperson. Please click the below links for more information as to how qualified candidates can submit their resumes for consideration:

<http://www.thenfp.org/scholarships>
<https://nfp.awardspring.com/Home/Scholarships>

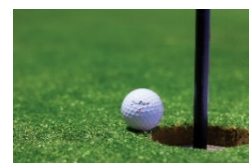
There are two qualifications placed on the candidate(s) by the VFW: (1) the individual be a veteran or the son or daughter of a veteran; (2) be a resident of Pennsylvania.

With the help of VFW posts and auxiliaries within Pennsylvania supporting the Golf Scramble by sponsoring yard signs placed throughout the course, we will be able to increase the donation for the golf scramble to over \$8,000.00 each year. All monies for signage and any monetary donations go directly to the scholarship fund. Remember that none of this money supports the golfers participating in the scramble; however, they enthusiastically support the scholarship program by participating in various events during the day of the scramble.

2026 Golf Scramble: July 10, 2026 @ The Bridges Golf Club, Abbottstown, PA.

2027 Golf Scramble: July 9, 2027 @ The Bridges Golf Club, Abbottstown, PA.

Yours in Comradeship,
Roxann Shearer
Barger Scholarship State Chairperson
717-654-2453
rox_usn_07@hotmail.com



**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Pennsylvania
Buddy Poppy Program Contest
2026-2027**

Goals of the Program:

1. 100% Post and Auxiliary participation throughout the Department;
2. Place Pennsylvania in the "**One Million Poppy Club**";
3. Encourage every member to wear a Buddy Poppy at all VFW functions and in their communities;
4. Remember our fallen by blanketing our communities with Buddy Poppies;
5. Increase participation of Posts and Auxiliaries in Buddy Poppy Display contest.

DEPARTMENT CONTESTS FOR 2024-2025

1. **District Chairperson** who attains 100% Post participation with three (3) poppies per member, by **December 31, 2026** (ordered from Department) will receive a Certificate of Appreciation, and a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate. These awards will be given out at the Mid-Winter Conference, 2027.
2. **District Chairperson** who attains 100% Post participation and exceeding last year's purchases by 25% before **April 30, 2027**, will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
3. The first three (3) **District Chairperson** to have purchases of/or exceeding five (5) Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2027**, will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate for the District.
4. If the Department makes it into the "**One Million Poppy Club**" by **April 30, 2027**, each **District Chairperson** will receive a special Commanders Choice Award and every **Post** will receive a specially designed certificate.
5. All **Posts** participating in the Buddy Poppy Program will receive a Certificate of Participation. These certificates will be given out at the State Convention.
6. **Posts** must purchase five (5) Buddy Poppy per member (minimum of 500 Poppies) to qualify for All-State
7. **Posts** exceeding ten (10) Buddy Poppies per member in purchases will receive a Buddy Poppy Pin for the Post Chairperson. These Pins will be given out at the State Convention.
8. The top **Post** from each division purchasing the most Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2027**, will receive a Buddy Poppy Award Plaque and \$75.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate. These Plaques will be given out at the State Convention.

Group 1: Divisions 1 through 2 based on the National Membership Divisions.

Group 2: Divisions 3 through 6 based on the National Membership Divisions.

Group 3: Divisions 7 through 11 based on the National Membership Divisions.

BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST RULES

1. While Poppies purchased in a prior year may be used in the Display, the 2026-2027 minimum Poppy Purchase is required to submit an entry.
2. All Buddy Poppy Display entries must adhere to the National Convention Buddy Poppy Display guidelines (Attachment C).
3. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
4. All Displays will be judge on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.
5. All Buddy Poppy Displays will be judged based on the following categories:
 - Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign.**
 - Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays**
 - Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.**
6. All displays must have been assigned a category by the sponsoring Post or Auxiliary. Displays will not be judged if not categorized. Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
7. All displays must have an official display entry form filled out completely. (A).
8. All Posts/Auxiliaries will bring their poppies display to their perspective District Convention to be judged.
9. All 1st Place District winners in each category will advance to the Department Judging.
10. Buddy Poppy Display Entries will be judged during the 2026-2027 Department Convention following the Patriotic Rally.
11. The display area will be announced. All displays **MUST** be set up prior to the opening of the VFW Friday morning business session.
12. There will be five (5) judges, two each selected by the VFW and Auxiliary Department Chairpersons. The Chairperson will select the fifth judge. Judging will be completed in a closed forum.
13. Contest winners will be announced on Saturday prior to the nomination of officers.
14. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place in each category.
15. Displays placing 1st or 2nd in the Department Contest are eligible to advance to the National Contest. The Post or Auxiliary **must** notify the Department Adjutant in writing by June 30, 2027 if they are attending the National Convention.
16. **The Department will not transport** any displays to or from any convention.

ATTACHMENT B

Winner Transmittal Sheet

POST: _____

DISTRICT: _____

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below

1st Place Category 1: _____

2nd Place Category 1: _____

3rd Place Category 1: _____

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below

1st Place Category 2: _____

2nd Place Category 2: _____

3rd Place Category 2: _____

Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies. (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Please state the THEME, POST, DISTRICT below

1st Place Category 3: _____

2nd Place Category 3: _____

3rd Place Category 3: _____

ATTACHMENT C NATIONAL CONTEST RULES FOR 2026-2027

A Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be held at the National Convention. Rules have been designed to put emphasis on the purpose and effectiveness of the displays. It is suggested that Department Contest rules be set up in conformance with this outline.

DISPLAYS WILL BE PRESENTED AND JUDGED IN THREE CATEGORIES:

Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign. (window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.)

- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays. (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes).

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies. (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy.
- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
- Departments purchasing over 250,000 Poppies will be allowed two displays in each of the three categories for the National Display Contest. All others will be allowed one display in each of the three categories, no deviations.
- The Department Adjutant will notify the Buddy Poppy Director, in writing, by June 30 of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category. This will allow the necessary time to ensure each entry has sufficient space to set up at the National Convention. **NOTE:** The National Buddy Poppy Committee shall have no responsibility in setting up, taking down, or returning displays.
- Displays may be entered and set up at any time from 9 a.m. Saturday until 4 p.m. on Monday of the Convention week.
- Displays shall be set up in space provided in the Convention facility. At the time the display is set up, the responsible person must complete an entry form which will show the category of competition, the number of Poppies used, the purpose of the display, the Post and/or VFW Auxiliary number and location, and the name of the person who will dismantle and remove the display at the close of the Convention.
- Displays may be accompanied by a white card, not to exceed 4 inches by 6 inches in size, on which is lettered in black ink an explanation of the theme for the display or other information of interest to the viewers or the judges.
- Post name, number or location may not be visible on display entries. **Failure to comply will result in disqualification.**

Judging

Judging of displays will be on the basis of effectiveness, purpose, clarity of theme, suitability, originality, beauty and number of Poppies used. Where a sample of a large number of identical items (such as corsages or wreaths) is entered, full credit shall be given for the total number of Poppies used.

VFW Buddy Poppy Chairperson:

Ian Sparrow (Post 1568)
202 Thomas Street, Towanda, PA 18848
E-mail: fourpaws@epix.net Phone: (570) 250-8497 (texting is ok)

Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Chairperson:

Deanne Mannella
456 Dennison Drive, West Mifflin, PA 15122
E-mail: deannepaws343@gmail.com, Phone: 412-551-1212

**EFFECTIVE 9/1/25 NATIONAL INCREASED THE COST OF
BUDDY POPPY BANKS**

PLEASE USE THIS NEW FORM WHEN ORDERING BUDDY POPPIES – REV. 9/1/2025

RETURN ORDER FORM WITH CHECK TO
Department of PA, Veterans of Foreign Wars
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
1-717-234-7927
ATTN: BUDDY POPPY ORDER

<u>QUANTITY REQUESTED</u>	<u>MERCHANDISE</u>	<u>QUANTITY COST</u>
	TIN BUDDY POPPIES	100 @ \$17.00
	TIN BUDDY POPPIES	500 @ 85.00
	TIN BUDDY POPPIES	1000 @ \$170.00
	BUDDY POPPIES	100 @ 30.00
	BUDDY POPPIES	500 @ \$150.00
	BUDDY POPPIES	1000 @ \$300.00
	BANKS	10 @ \$60.00 Increased 9/1/25
	VOLUNTEER BUTTONS	25 @ \$15.00
	POPPY BOARDS	50 @ \$25.00

NOTE: ALL ORDERS MUST INCLUDE SHIPPING CHARGE BELOW

100/1,999 POPPIES - \$7.00
2,000/3,999 POPPIES - \$10.00
4,000/ 7,999 POPPIES - \$14.00
8,000/11,999 POPPIES – \$21.00
12,000/15,999 POPPIES - \$28.00
16,000/20,000 POPPIES - \$32.00

BANKS/BUTTONS/BOARDS - \$7.00

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID BEFORE THEY CAN BE SHIPPED

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY ALL INFORMATION

Ship to:



**ALL BUDDY POPPY ORDERS MUST INCLUDE SHIPPING CHARGE
- IF NOT INCLUDED THE ORDER WILL BE RETURNED**

CHECK# _____ AMOUNT \$ _____ INCLUDING _____ SHIPPING CHARGE
POST# _____ DISTRICT # _____
AUX# _____ DISTRICT # _____

For Department use only: Order received at Department: _____ Shipped: _____ Credited under Post: _____

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Bylaws & Amendments and Resolutions
2026-2027**

Bylaws and Manual Ritual

Congressional Charter Bylaws

Quick Reference Guide

Article I, Section 100 - Members

Article II, Section 200 – Posts

Article IV, Section 400 – Districts

Article V, Section 500 – Departments

Article VI, Section 600 – National

Article IX, Section 900 – Discipline

Article X, Section 1000 – Rules of Order

Parliamentary Procedure

Robert’s Rules of Order – Newly Revised Robert’s Rules of Order – Newly Revised – *In Brief*

Bylaws Guidance and References

VFW Portal – <https://vfw.org> (Requires Log In)

My VFW / VFW Training and Support:

<https://www.vfw.org/my-vfw/vfw-training-and-support/bylaws-training-forms-and-templates>

Download FREE digital version of the current Podium Edition

Templated Post Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation(Templates)

Templated District Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation(Templates)

Training Videos and Parliamentary Procedures Training Videos

Training Guides and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

Elected and Appointed Officers – Position Specific Materials

Department of PA VFW Website: <https://vfwpa.org/>

Resources / Post Information and District Information

Any questions, please contact the Department Bylaws Chairman:

Roger F. Miller

Cell: 717-654-1446

Email: rfmillervfw@gmail.com

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Amendments and Resolutions
2026-2027**

**PREPARING A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE
OR RITUAL**

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (2) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____

.Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:
“majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by the Department of _____

.Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and

inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:
“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.
Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and a citizen of our great republic.”
Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

TO THE NATIONAL BYLAWS, MANUAL OF PROCEDURE OR RITUAL

Bylaws: Any member in good standing, a Post, a District, or a Department, may propose an amendment to the National Bylaws; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must be approved by a Department Convention. Immediately following a Department Convention, the proposed amendment(s) must be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Manual of Procedure and Ritual: Any Post, District, or Department may propose an amendment to the Manual of Procedure or Ritual; provided, however, before consideration at the National Convention, the proposed amendment must have been forwarded, through channels and have been properly approved.

In order to meet National Bylaw/Manual of Procedure Article XIV requirements, to provide fifteen (15) day notice to all Posts of all amendments, the Adjutant General requests all amendments be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than five (5) working days following the close of the Department Convention.

Bylaw, Manual of Procedure or Ritual changes not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

A proposed change to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual must be submitted as such, not as a resolution. Proposed amendments must be definite and specific as to the verbiage to be deleted or added. Use of the most recent amended copy of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual is encouraged, as proposed changes considered by Convention delegates cannot be amended on the floor.

EXAMPLE 1

Proposed Amendment to National Bylaws proposed by Department of _____

.

Section 202 – Bylaws.

Amend Section 202, National Bylaws, by deleting the words “two-thirds (2/3)” in the

first sentence of paragraph one, and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following: “majority”.

EXAMPLE 2

Proposed Amendment to National Manual of Procedure proposed by Department of _____

.Section 518 – Officers: Duties and Obligations.

Amend Section 518, Manual of Procedure, by deleting paragraph (a) (1) d. in its entirety and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

“Plan and organize all social functions.”

EXAMPLE 3

Proposed Amendment to National Ritual proposed by Department of _____.

Amend the Ritual by deleting on page 48, in the last sentence of the Member’s Obligation, the words “and citizen of our great republic.”

Further amend by placing a period after the word “comrade” in the same sentence.

If you require help composing a proposed change to the Bylaws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual, please contact Administrative Operations at National Headquarters for advice and assistance in properly preparing a proposed amendment to be voted upon by your department convention.

PREPARING A RESOLUTION **TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION**

The policy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is established by resolutions adopted by the delegates attending Department and National Conventions. Most resolutions originate at the Post level and are passed through the District and Department before being acted upon at a National Convention. Many times, an otherwise worthy idea gets nowhere merely because it is not correctly presented.

A resolution contains two separate parts; a statement of the problem to be solved, and the proposed solution to the problem. The problem is outlined in the “*WHEREAS*” clauses, and the proposed solution is given in the “*RESOLVED*” section.

The “*RESOLVED*” section of a resolution should be complete in itself without depending on the “*WHEREAS*” clauses to give it meaning.

EXAMPLE

WHEREAS, the rising cost of living has created an intense hardship on those disabled veterans whose only income is a meager pension check; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we petition Congress to enact legislation which would provide a substantial increase in non-service connected pension rates.

If a resolution deals with a local problem, it needs no action on a level higher than that of the Post. If the problem concerns an area larger than that served by the Post, it should, after Post approval, be presented before the District or County Council. All resolutions of statewide, regional or national concern must be acted upon by the Department Convention. Those resolutions approved by a

Department Convention, which affect persons or matters *outside the state boundaries*, must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.

When submitting a resolution to the Department Convention, a notation on the bottom should show the previous action taken, such as, approval by Post and, if applicable, by the District. A Post or District submitting a resolution to its Department Convention must follow guidelines established by the Department, which may require submitting the resolution to the Department Adjutant prior to the convening of the convention.

Resolutions not in proper form, with unclear meaning, or concerning matters clearly not within the scope and purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars cannot be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions approved by a Department Convention, which affect matters outside state boundaries, must be forwarded by the Department Adjutant to the National Convention for final disposition. Approved resolutions should be sent to National Headquarters at the close of the Department Convention. The Adjutant General requests all resolutions be forwarded to National Headquarters no later than two (2) working days following the close of the Department Convention. A resolution disapproved by the Department Convention or not acted upon by the Department Convention will not be considered by the National Convention.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department officers or by the Department Convention itself and acted upon by the Department Convention. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Convention without Department action. Likewise, a National Convention Committee may originate a resolution and present it for approval during the National Convention.

Policy set by the National Convention is binding upon all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No Post or Department is permitted to take any individual action or espouse any cause contrary to the National Bylaws or to the actions of the National Convention except that it may propose changes in policy by the preparation of a resolution for consideration as outlined herein.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- 1) Any member in good standing may propose a National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendment directly to the National Convention delegates.
 True
 False

- 2) Article XIV of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require the Adjutant General to provide notice to all Posts on any proposed amendment to be decided by the delegates of the National Convention.
A. 10
B. 15
C. 20
D. 30

- 3) National Bylaw, Manual of Procedure, or Ritual amendments are submitted to the Adjutant General in the form of a resolution.
 True
 False

- 4) A resolution adopted by the National Convention sets policy which is binding for all subordinate units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.
 True
 False

- 5) In a resolution the “WHEREAS” represents the issue and the “BE IT RESOLVED” proposes the solution.
 True
 False

- 6) Resolutions approved by a Department Convention that affect matters outside its geographical boundary must be forwarded to the National Convention for final disposition.
 True
 False

1) False – An Amendment must be approved by a Department Convention or to be submitted by a National Officer; 2) 15 Days; 3) False, the amendment must be specific; 4) True; 5) True; 6) True



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

2026-2027 SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARDS

Info to: Department Commander Jim Brown
Department President Cecelia Cook
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Karen Kline
State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Chairman

Subject: 2026-2027 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education
Teacher Award

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Welcome to another exciting year for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Each year the VFW selects elementary(K-5), middle (6-8) and high school (9-12) teachers to participate in this program. Post and District Chairmen can access the program guides and entry forms from the National VFW website www.vfw.org or Department website www.vfwpahq.org. The Department entry deadlines will be posted to Department website.

State Deadlines for 2026-2027 Smart/Maher Teacher Awards are:

1. October 31, 2026 – Entry form to Post
2. November 16, 2026 – Entry to District if applicable
3. December 15, 2026 – Post/District winners forward to State Chairman Karen Kline
Address: 29 Farm House Lane, Camp Hill, PA 17011. **Do not mail to Department Headquarters**
4. January 15, 2027 - Department winners to National

Thank you,
In support of our Troops, Veterans and Friendship in the VFW and It's Auxiliary.

Karen Kline
State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Chairman
717-557-6878 (c)

2026-2027 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. The national awards include \$1,000 Smart/Maher award for each of the top K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses, \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school, commemorative plaques and all-expense-paid trip to the VFW National Convention.

Who is Eligible?

All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national VFW winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the official entry form contained on the next page, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages, including the resume, as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: resume, references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed entry form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/FindaPost for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2025. It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call
Mary Spencer, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or
[mspencer@vfw.org](mailto:m Spencer@vfw.org).*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: Name, Title

Phone Best time to call

Alternative Contact: Name, Title

Phone Best time to call

2026-2027 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026

2026-2027 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition

Please tell us who you are nominating—below in box.

Name: First, M.I., Last	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
() _____ Phone	_____ Email
Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12)	
School Name	
School Address	
() _____ School Phone	_____ School Email

Person Nominating Teacher

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Teacher Award Competition.

Post Commander's/Chairperson's Signature Post #

VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairperson's Signature
(If Applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of teachers participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post /Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post /Aux. additional expenses \$
(banquet, pins, etc.)

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable)

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our entry into the Department judging.

District Chairperson's Signature Dist #

Address

City, State, Zip

() _____
Phone Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson's Signature

() _____
Daytime Phone Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries will begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner can be submitted for each level, and to District by Nov. 15. If your Department does not have a District judging, then submit to your Department Headquarters by Jan. 1. Otherwise, one District winner, at each level, may advance to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit vfw.org/FindaPost to find your local VFW Post. Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at mspencer@vfw.org.



DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS and VFW AUXILIARY

Info: Department Commander Jim Brown
Department President Cecelia Cook
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
District Chairman and Auxiliary Chairman
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Monica Austin - Coloring Contest Chairman

Subject: 2026-2027 Coloring Contest

Theme: Grade Division K-1 Veteran and boy
Grade Division 2-3 Veteran and girl
Grade Division 4-5 Proud Veteran Fellow

Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

The State Coloring Contest returns this year for students in kindergarten through 5th grade, offering Posts a valuable way to engage young community members and to spark early exposure to the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contests.

Entries must be mailed to a local Post—not the State Chairman—by October 31, 2026. Post judging concludes November 16; District judging December 1; State judging December 11.

The Department will award one winner per grade division a \$50 check and a certificate. Posts and Districts may set their own awards. Posts in non-participating Districts may send winners directly to the State Chairman.

Lt. John C. Roche VFW Post 212
ATTN: QM, Monica Austin
94 Barbour Street Bradford, PA
16701 mbcst4@aol.com
814-558-2224



For judging anonymity fold below line

Post: _____

School: _____

Grade: (circle one)

Kindergarten

1st

Student name/contact info: _____



For judging anonymity fold below line

Post: _____

School: _____

Grade: (circle one)

2nd

3rd

Student name/contact info: _____



For judging anonymity fold below line

Post: _____

School: _____

Grade: (circle one)

4th

5th

Student name/contact info: _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE: STRENGTHENING OUR NATION, ONE ACT AT A TIME

Proudly supporting our communities with the spirit of American patriotism

Why Community Service Matters

Community service is a vital mission of every VFW Post and Auxiliary. It strengthens our towns, supports our neighbors, and honors the values our veterans fought to protect. When we serve, we build trust, unity, and pride—ensuring our Post remains a strong pillar in the community.

Keys to a Successful Community Service Program

Choose Impactful Projects

Focus on the needs of your community. A few well-executed projects make a bigger difference than many unfinished ones.

Strong Leadership

The Post Commander appoints a motivated, knowledgeable Chairperson to lead the program.

Active Committees

A small, dedicated team plans events, recruits volunteers, and ensures each project runs smoothly. ** Accurately report volunteer activities**

Capture & Share the Story

Photos, highlights, and follow-up reports help showcase your Post's impact and inspire others to get involved.

Teamwork Between Post & Auxiliary

Working together means greater success and less work for everyone.

Building a Stronger Post Through Service

Active involvement keeps a Post thriving. When the community sees what you do, membership grows, partnerships form, and patriotism shines. Posts that serve boldly become Posts that last.

**Serve with Purpose. Lead with Pride. Strengthen Your Community.
Together, we honor our veterans by serving the nation they defended.**

Community Service Reporting Website Instructions

All reporting will be done through the vfwpa.org

Follow the instructions below:

1. Click the hyperlink vfwpa.org. This will take you to our website
2. On the right side you will see login, click on the drop-down box and choose Members Only and this will take you to the login
3. Member ID: Your VFW member number
Password: Your last name (all lower case)
4. This will take you to 2 options: Dashboard or Program Reports
5. Click on Program Reports
6. Here you will see your Post and District with your email address of the submitter
 - a. Put in the date of activity
 - b. Select the program you are applying it to and a list of select activities will come up. Choose which activity your information applies to
 - c. Then it will go to Hours; Miles, Members and Dollars Spent/Donated add the information and then you can add a description
7. Click Submit and your Community Service Report will go directly to the Department for John Getz to approve them. Once approved it goes directly to National. Allow 24 Hours to update through National.

Educate Yourself: [COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES](#)



[COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRPERSONS GUIDE \(REV-2023\)](#)



LEARN MORE ABOUT VFW COMMUNITY INITIATIVES:

Discover detailed information about all VFW community service programs, local initiatives, and how your Post can make a greater impact in your community.

[Local Initiatives - VFW](#)



[VFW Day Of Service](#)



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact

Monica Austin

Email : mbcst4@aol.com or Cell: 814-558-2224

VFW Combat Tested Gaming

Tired of solo missions? Find your new squad with VFW Combat Tested Gaming! The VFW, America's largest combat veteran organization, founded CTG in 2023 alongside Crew Social Club to bring service members and veterans the ultimate gaming experience.



Beyond the competition, our leagues are a powerful tool for improving mental wellness, fostering social engagement and skill development in a supportive, inclusive environment. It's where shared interests build real camaraderie and purpose.



Ready to deploy into a community that gets you? Registration is **100% FREE!** Join Combat Tested Gaming today and connect with thousands of military veteran gamers.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Combat Tested Gaming community is bringing together veterans, active-duty personnel, veteran supporters and the gaming world. The

community fosters camaraderie, friendly competition, and emotional support, providing a space for mental well-being and the opportunity to learn more about veteran benefits.

Join the Community on [DISCORD](#)



For more information, please contact

Combat Tested Gaming Co-Chairperson	Zackary	Portser	724-640-3400	zackary.portser@gmail.com
Combat Tested Gaming Co-Chairperson	Bob	Heriford	719-494-6182	Firstsgt1978@gmail.com

<https://www.vfw.org/community/gaming>



COMBAT TESTED GAMING

By the **VFW**
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

THE VFW'S INAUGURAL GAMING LEAGUE EXCLUSIVELY FOR VETERANS.

Join the
community!



Combat Tested Gaming (CTG) has become the fastest-growing veterans gaming community in America. We are approaching 2,500 veteran gamers on our Discord server and streaming gameplay on our Combat Tested Gaming Twitch channel. Join our Discord community to connect with other veterans and active duty server members who play your game of choice! Subscribe to our Twitch and YouTube channels to watch our gameplay and experience the thrill and camaraderie of our gamers.

GAMES

- Rocket League
- Call of Duty
- Call of Duty: Warzone
- World of Warcraft
- Valorant
- Madden
- MLB: The Show
- Rainbow Six Siege
- NBA 2K
- Helldivers 2
- Apex Legends
- Fortnite
- League of Legends
- The Finals
- EA Sports FC
- And more! We are adding games consistently.

IMPACT OVERVIEW

2,250+
Veteran
gamers.



**DEDICATED VFW
SERVICE
OFFICER**



answering VA benefits
questions daily.

**4 VFW
POSTS**



have leveraged CTG to start
gaming nights – one building
a gaming room to support
student veterans.

**5 VETERANS'
LIVES SAVED**



during crisis by
using connections
made through CTG.

CTG has quickly succeeded in reaching its early objectives. Now, as we look to the future, we set our sights on becoming THE leader in the veteran gaming space by continuing to promote the program and through partnering with a veteran-owned company which specializes in building the gaming infrastructure needed to support our growth and long-term success.

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Healthcare Award Program
2026-2027**

Guidelines for Healthcare Awards

1. A narrative of no more than 500 words will be submitted to the posts no later than February 28, 2027.
2. Once a winner is chosen from your post, the narrative will be submitted to the Chairperson of Healthcare awards no later than March 15, 2027.
3. When you send your winner in, make sure the nomination support form is filled out and attached.
4. The winner in each category will receive a plaque at the state convention. If the winner cannot attend the state convention the plaque will be given to the post/district commander to be awarded.

Category 1 - VA Volunteer of the Year Award - Nominees for this award must be a regularly scheduled volunteer and must volunteer and work with one of the following: hospitalized veterans, CBOC veterans, veterans in community living centers, homeless veterans or veterans confined to their homes.

Category 2 - Outstanding VA Healthcare Employee of the Year Award - The goal of this award is to provide recognition to a VA healthcare provider who takes the extra steps to provide exemplary service to our veterans and their families.

Category 3 - Outstanding Community Healthcare Employee of the Year Award - The goal of this award is to provide recognition to a healthcare provide who takes the extra steps to provide exemplary service and support to our veterans and their families within the community.

**Department of Pennsylvania
Healthcare Award
Program 2026-2027**

AWARD NOMINATION SUPPORT FORM

Name of Recipient: _____

Organization/Hospital Name: _____

Nomination Submitted by: _____

Submitting Post: _____

Submitting District: _____

Post/District Commander: _____

Please mail to Health Awards Chairperson no later than March 17th to:

Ruth A. Altman
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Health Awards Chairperson
160 Lakewood Road
New Castle, PA 16101
Email: fairchildra64@aol.com
724-544-4745



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA

111 CAMERON AVENUE

HUMMELSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 17036

(717) 991-1473

Emails: djc57@verizon.net

Office of
Department of PA VFW
Homeless Veterans Chairman

18 April 2026

TO: All PA State VFW District and Post

As your Homeless Veterans Chairman, I am requesting that you keep me informed about any event you are having in your communities. If I can attend I will, but you must provide me with the date, location and time of the event.

I would like to ask each district and Post to set up a program in your communities and send me the contact information of your District and Post Chairman.

We have created a Homeless Veterans report. If you have any events in your District or Post or Communities, please fill one out email it or mail it to the above address. I will use these reports that I have received to brief the Department Officers and the Membership throughout the year.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your support.

Spike

David W. "Spike" Gyger



Department of PA VFW
Homeless Veterans Chairman's Monthly Report 2026 - 2027

Period Covering: _____

Number of events during this period: _____

How many Post and Auxiliary members participated? _____

How many veterans served/helped? _____

Hours spent at event: _____

Mileage (if applicable): _____

Donation type:

Clothing: Yes: _____ No: _____ Value: _____

Food: Yes: _____ No: _____ Value: _____

Monetary: _____

Other (Please give a brief description): _____

Was it a fundraiser? Yes: _____ No: _____

What organization will benefit from it?

Amount raised: _____

Chairman's Name: _____

District Number: _____

Post Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please mail or email this report to:
Department of PA VFW Homeless Veterans Chairman
David "Spike" Gyger
111 Cameron Avenue
Hummelstown, PA 17036
Email: djc57@verizon.net



Loyalty Day is a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States of America, and the recognition of the heritage of the American Freedom.

Every Post, Auxiliary and District is encouraged to participate in this reaffirmation of our loyalty.

Join us for our ceremony on Friday April 30, 2027 at 10:00 am at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg.

For more information please contact

Jeff Puckett, Chairperson

717-877-5702

Jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW National Home Program
2026-2027**

The VFW National Home is a place where military veterans and their families can get a fresh start by living rent free for up to four years and have access to case management services, life skills training, tutor, and other educational services as well as other recreational and community services needed to aid the healing process. It provides a safe and peaceful environment for the entire veteran's family.

The humble beginnings of the VFW National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old Michigan woman Amy Ross who in 1922 made it her mission and legacy to help find jobs for thousands of unemployed Veterans in her home city of Detroit. News of Ms. Ross' efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted her 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan. On January 7, 1925 the VFW National Home was founded, helping to honor the pledge of **"Honor the dead by helping the living."**

The home welcomed its first family, a widow with six children, into an old, framed farmhouse. The home has since grown into a vast sprawling campus of tree lined streets with playgrounds, parks, childcare facilities, community center, multiple family-oriented facilities, a guest lodge, chapel, administrative offices and forty-two single family homes.

All the homes are named for the states that sponsor them, after a sponsor, or after an organization. Department of Pennsylvania VFW sponsors House # 1. The majority of contributions used for funding are from VFW's and other donations. National Home is forever evolving to meet the changing needs of veterans and military families to better assist them with reintegration, post-traumatic stress, high unemployment, rehabilitation from battlefield injuries, emotional wounds, financial stress, or fractured family relationships, among other issues that can affect a parent serving our country and his/her family. In accepting a family to the program, it is asked that they must be committed to making changes in their lives.

To remain at National Home, they must demonstrate consistent progress toward family goals. In partnership with them the home is dedicated to helping each family succeed in reaching their full potential.

If your Post or individual member knows of a family who may need assistance encourage them to:

- Call the Helpline at 1-800-313-4200
- Email help@vfwnationalhome.org
- Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help

The way that the VFW supports the National Home is through your donations. The fund supports the following:

- Maintenance of VFW sponsored buildings including emergency repairs and needed renovations.

Donations can be made through the Department of PA, by mail or in person.

Send checks to: Department of PA VFW
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
Earmark Checks: National Home

Become a Life-Member:

VFW members are encouraged to become life members of National Home. Life members may vote for Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Any individual or organization not associated with the VFW can also support the National Home by becoming an Associate Life member. These members do not receive voting privileges.

The cost of becoming a life member is a one-time fee of \$100.00 and includes a membership certificate, a wallet card, and a pin.

Visit vfnationalhome.org/membership for more information, an application, or to purchase a life membership.

Other ways to give:

Tribute Bricks are available to purchase, donations to the Tribute Park and fundraisers are other ways you can support National Home. I encourage everyone to visit their website at: vfnationalhome.org

We need to spread the word of the many wonderful programs they do and have done for our veterans and the veterans' families.

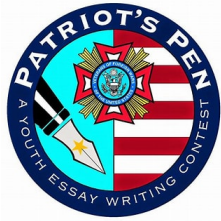
I will be working on methods of fundraising for the National Home, including taking donations to be sent to Department of PA VFW for Commander Brown's year.

I am looking for new ideas for fundraising options – please contact me to discuss any suggestions you may have to help raise money for The National Home.

If enough interest is shown, I am hoping to sponsor a Bus Trip to the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

If you have any questions, or if you need applications, Please Contact

Ben Mastridge
267-254-9062
bensarmy@hotmail.com



Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest
2026-2027

“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Info To: Department Commander Jim Brown
Department President Cecelia Cook
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Patriot's Pen Chairmen and District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: William D. Lamond III
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Chairperson

Subject: 2026-2027 Patriot's Pen Patriotic Youth Essay Competition

Theme: “What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Writing Contest. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have yet another successful year. This year, the theme “What a Veteran Taught Me About America” encourages young minds to examine America's storied history as well as their own experiences in American society. I thank each of you for your hard work and dedication to this program. With your support, we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you get started:

Post and District Chairpersons can access the program guides, find participating Posts, download student brochures or purchase them online (Item #04420) from the National VFW website www.vfw.org. Students can also complete a Patriot's Pen entry form on the National website using the Patriot's Pen link. The Department website is www.vfwpa.org; where you will find Department deadlines and the student entry brochure.

State Deadlines for the 2026-2027 Patriot's Pen Program are listed below:

- 1.) October 31, 2026 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight
- 2.) November 16, 2026 - Post judging completed
- 3.) December 1, 2026 - District judging completed
- 4.) December 4, 2026 - District Winner Entry Form, Typed Essay, Head and Shoulders Photo of good quality, District Summary Report and District Participation report **in the hands** of the Department Chairman, William D. Lamond III, 3360 Nashotka Road, Madison Township, PA 18444. **THESE MUST BE MAILED. NO EMAILS, PLEASE.**

*****DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS*****

- 5.) December 11, 2026 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
- 6.) January 15, 2027- Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters
- 7.) January 18, 2027 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet at the Penn Stater Hotel, State College. The Patriot's Pen first place winner for the Department will attend.

Please note that all Patriot's Pen participation reporting is completed on the All-American Dashboard, starting at the Post level. Once the Post completes their judging and forwards their winners to the District Chairperson, the Post must enter the participation stats (Post and Auxiliary participation, number of participating students, number of winners advanced, monetary awards and additional money expended) into the dashboard. When the District and Department approves your participation report, National will approve and turn status to MET in the dashboard. This process will ensure each Post receives credit. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard.

REMINDER: One of Commander Brown's requirements for All State Post is a Patriot's Pen entry or monetary donation in lieu of an entry. **All Divisions: Donation of \$500.00**

The State Auxiliary Chairperson is Karen Mooney. If you have any questions or concerns, Karen and I can be contacted as follows:

William D. Lamond III
3360 Nashotka Road
Madison Township, PA 18444
(570) 241-5875
Email: ta30chev@gmail.com

Karen Mooney
81 Greenwood Drive
New Cumberland, PA 17070
(717) 580-3994
E-mail: karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

If your Post is unable to get a Patriot's Pen submission, please contact Bill Lamond. He will get you a student's submission!

Thank you!

In Support of our Troops and Friendship in the VFW and Its Auxiliary,

William D. Lamond III

William D. Lamond III
VFW Department of Pennsylvania
Patriot's Pen Chairperson

2026-2027 Theme "What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026
Patriotic Written Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$5,000 Award

What is the Patriot's Pen Program?

Conducted nationwide, this VFW-sponsored youth essay competition gives students an opportunity to write essays expressing their views on an annual patriotic theme. We invite you to join the more than 60,000 students who participated last year in this contest.

Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, State and national level. Department (State) winners receive a portion of \$55,000 in national awards. National Winners will receive at least \$500. **The first-place national award is currently \$5,000.**

The Internal Revenue Service requires a recipient awarded more than \$599 be given Form 1099 identifying the proceeds as taxable income. This may require the winner to provide their social security number.

How Does the Contest Work?

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to the Post.

The contest consists of four levels. The first level (entry) is sponsored by VFW Posts. Post winners advance, one for every 15 entries, to the VFW District (regional) level where one first-place winner is advanced to the VFW Department (state) level. The first-place winner at the Department level is then advanced into the VFW national competition. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement. Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. Contact the post where you entered to check on your advancement.

Who Can Enter?

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students are ineligible.)

How Do I Get Started?

- Ask a teacher or youth group/club adult leader to supervise the Patriot's Pen writing contest.
- Contact a participating VFW Post and indicate your interest in participating.
- Establish a contact person who is a member of that VFW Post or its VFW Auxiliary.
- Make sure that your essay is submitted to the VFW Post before the contest deadline of Oct. 31.

- Your local Post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. It may be delivered in person, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.**

Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

How Am I Judged?

- **Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points:**
You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively.
- **Theme development is worth 35 points:**
Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences.
- **Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points:**
Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

What Is the Theme?

VFW's Commander-in-Chief annually chooses the year's theme. The 2026-2027 theme is:

"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"

Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight Oct. 31.

Note:

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions:

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to "Find a VFW Post."

If you don't have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble contacting them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) headquarters office to see if they can offer any information or assistance.

You can visit [vfw.org/contactus](https://www.vfw.org/contactus) to look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email.

**For assistance contact
the VFW National Headquarters at 816.968.2787
Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org**

2026-2027 Official Entry Form Patriot's Pen Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

(____) _____

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Essay Word Count

School Name, City, State

Teacher's name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

(____) _____

Parent/Guardian's Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian's Email

What Are the Rules?

• You must write your own essay.

• All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics. 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). Every word is counted regardless of length. The essay title (theme) or added footnotes do not contribute to the word count.

• To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays must be anonymous. Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay. Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to your individual background or experience should be avoided.

• Do not put your name on the essay. The entry form is your essays cover sheet. Secure the Official Student Entry Form with a staple or other fastener on top of your essay. Contestants are allowed to enter only once each year if otherwise eligible (one Post competition).

• The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Contestants will be judged on the basis of their essay alone and are not required to present the essay orally. All essays become the property of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The VFW retains non-exclusive rights to the use of your essay and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

• At any time during the contest additional participant personal information (i.e. SSN, photo, etc.) could be requested by the VFW.

I Have Read and Understand the Contest Rules

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Patriot's Pen Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post#

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (If applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of participants _____

No. of winners _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarships awards \$ _____

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (Banquet, Pins, etc.) \$ _____

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Patriot's Pen Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Department.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

(____) _____

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Patriot's Pen Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

(____) _____

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Best Time To Call: _____



Twisted X Brands
A Proud Sponsor

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
POW/MIA Recognition Day**

National League of POW/MIA Families POW/MIA FLAG HISTORY

The National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia was incorporated in the District of Columbia on May 28, 1970. The League's sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died during the Vietnam War.

Its Web site is www.pow-miafamilies.org.

POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

By custom, it is on the third Friday in September.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations.

The VFW will not rest until we achieve the fullest possible accounting of all missing American military service members from all wars. The VFW encourages the U.S. government to continue its missing personnel accounting efforts and is directly engaged with former enemy nations urging their fullest cooperation and assistance in obtaining information about American POWs/MIAs. VFW national officers make periodic trips to Pacific, Asian and European countries where they meet with senior host country officials to stress the importance of conducting investigation and recovery operations, as well as gaining access to documents and archival research facilities.

VFW's Stance on POW/MIA Issues

1. Never quit on achieving the fullest possible accounting of all American POWs/MIAs from all wars.
2. Urge Congress to fully fund the requested amounts for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and all supporting agencies involved in the Full Accounting Mission.
3. Encourage POW/MIA public awareness projects and events.
4. Support POW/MIA Recognition Day.
5. Encourage the flying of the POW/MIA flag on all local, state and federal government buildings as a reminder that this issue is a matter of national importance.
6. Immediately drape all transfer cases containing recovered remains of military members with the U.S. flag upon departure from foreign soil.

7. Solicit and provide information to assist the government of Vietnam in accounting for their own missing in action during the war with the U.S
8. Keep the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs intact in mission, personnel, and funding.

Each human carries around a cellular dog tag called nuclear DNA—genetic material inherited in equal shares from a person’s mother and father at the moment of conception. It is unique to each individual and a sure-fire identifier. Law enforcement uses nuclear DNA to convict criminals, and military investigators use it to identify current battlefield and accident victims. Usually, this is done by comparing a known sample of the victim’s DNA to DNA taken from the bodily remains. But first there must be a sample on file. Please help in giving a DNA sample.

POW/MIA stands for prisoners of war and missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September each year.

In 2026, it will be on Friday, September 18th. It is a day to honor and remember the service members who were captured or who remain unaccounted for and please remember to have a ceremony at your post to honor those veterans.

For any other questions, please contact:

Ron Peters
1075 S. Kendal Ave
Bradford, PA 16701
(814) 758-6087

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Safety Awards Program 2025-2026 Public Servant Award Citations for

Emergency Medical Technicians, Law Enforcement Personnel, Firefighters, Dispatchers and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians (EODT).

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement, firefighter, dispatcher and explosive ordnance disposal technicians' personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards.

Post Safety Chairpersons are to submit a candidate for these awards to Department Headquarters by December 15th.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individuals employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National 911 Dispatcher Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with providing the vital link between callers in distress and emergency response teams by obtaining essential information to send the appropriate responders to the right location.

VFW National Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with the enforcement of the laws and special handling pertaining to disposal of explosive threats to our nation's citizens.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) One (1) page resume of the candidate's background in their field and overall background.
- 2) One (1) page listing of the candidate's accomplishments and awards in their field.
- 3) Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate.
- 4) One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form (located in the program book)

Post Safety Chairperson should send the above information to their Department Headquarters to arrive no later than **December 15.**

Please Send Completed Forms and Resume to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

4002 Fenton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

717-234-7927

If you have questions, please contact:

Brian Delaney

VFW Department of PA Safety & Recognition Chairperson

52 Carey Street

Ashley, PA. 18706

E-mail: vfwpost4712adj@outlook.com

Phone: 570-575-3589

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

Firefighter Award

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background: _____

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Firefighting Work: _____

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Firefighting Field: _____

(4) Nominee's head and shoulder photo. _____

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Phone Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resume, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
Firefighter Award
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
717-234-7927

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
Emergency Medical Technician Award

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background: _____

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in EMT Work: _____

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the EMT Field: _____

(4) Nominee's head and shoulder photo. _____

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Phone Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resume, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
Emergency Medical Technician Award
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
717-234-7927

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Radko Award (law Enforcement)

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background: _____

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Law Enforcement Work: _____

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Law Enforcement Field: _____

(4) Nominee's head and shoulder photo. _____

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Phone Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resume, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
John Radko Award
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
717-234-7927

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
911 Dispatcher Award

NAME OF NOMINEE _____

TITLE OF NOMINEE _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(1) Resume of Nominee's Background: _____

(2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Dispatcher Work: _____

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Dispatcher Field: _____

(4) Nominee's head and shoulder photo. _____

Post Commander Name: _____

Post Number: _____ District Number: _____

Post Commander Phone Number: _____

Post Commander Signature: _____

Please Send Completed Forms, Resume, and Letter to:

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars
Dispatcher Award
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
717-234-7927

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15th

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Student Veterans Program
2026-2027**

**CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT
HOW TO GET INVOLVED**



University Contacts
To link up with Veterans on campus, speak to the following Campus Personnel:
Admissions Department
VA Certifying Official

Student Activity
Events to consider becoming a part of at local campuses:
College Visit
Days Admissions
Events Alumni



For more information or further assistance, Please Contact:
Jeff Puckett
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Student Veterans Chairperson
717-877-5702
Jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com

THE VETERANS COURT PROGRAM
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA



WHAT IS A VETERANS COURT:

A Veterans Court is a Special Court that handles cases of Veterans who've committed minor or certain felony offenses due to service-related mental or psychological disorders such as PTSD, Addiction, or Traumatic Brain Injury.

The Court is a Hybrid Drug and Mental Health or Wellness Court that's designed for Veterans and promotes Sobriety, Recovery, and Stability. It's done through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the Court System as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs, Volunteer Veteran Mentors, and Veterans and Veterans' Family Support Organizations.

The Court aims to address the underlying issues that affect Veterans and provide them with Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Education rather than Jail or Prison time. A Veterans Court also offers Veterans the support and structure of their Peers and Mentors.

The first Veterans Court was Established in 2008 in Buffalo, New York.

Today there are 26 Counties in Pennsylvania that have a Veterans Court.

WHY A VETERANS COURT PROGRAM:

Approximately more than half of the 2.6 Million Veterans Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan have returned with mental health conditions related to their Service. One in six struggle with Addiction, and one in five suffer from PTSD or Major Depression.

Over 320,000 Veterans from these conflicts suffer from a traumatic brain injury. Many seek to self-medicate with alcohol and substance abuse, often leading them down a destructive path.

Currently, there are nearly 700,000 Veterans are in the Criminal Justice System with many incarcerated for crimes related to their injuries and conditions. While Veterans should and must be held to the same standards regarding Civil Law, a Veterans Court is a Veteran-Only option designed to provide them the help they need, stop the cycle of Law Enforcement Intervention, and improve not only their lives but the lives of their Families and Loved Ones.

HOW A VETERANS COURT WORKS

Following an arrest if the offender is identified as a Veteran, they can be screened for VA Healthcare Eligibility. Suitability for the Program is determined thru a series of screenings to include factoring in public safety. Legal Counsel will explain the Program including the stringent requirements involved and advises the Veteran in the decision-making process to enter the Program or not.

Participants in the Veterans Court Program that will interact with the Veteran include but are not limited to the Court System (Judge, Probation/Parole, District Attorney, the Public Defender's Office or Defense Legal Counsel), the Department of Veterans Affairs, Social Services, and Volunteer Mentors.

Judges in Most Civilian Courts handle a wide range of infractions and Civilians on a daily basis. The Veterans Court is a Veterans Only Docket that allows the Judge to specialize and build on their knowledge of the Military and Veteran Issues to make more objective decisions.

During Court Sessions a representative from the VA is often present and linked for access to confidential medical records. They can make Treatment Appointments as well as communicate important information to the Court. Probation/Parole is also present to validate the Participant is meeting required appointments and other mandated directives.

While a Veterans Court often allows the Veteran to remain in their Community while undergoing treatment, the Judge will regularly check on their progress. If the Veteran fails to meet the requirements of the program such as failure of a drug screening test or disobeys a Court Order or Requirement of the Program the Judge may impose Sanctions. These Sanctions include Community Service, Fines, Jail Time, or even Transfer out of the Program back to a traditional Criminal Court or to serve out their Sentence.

The Veteran is responsible for full payment of restitution to any victims of their crimes (the details and amount of which if any is owed are negotiated up front and included in the Veterans Treatment Court Contract). Participants are also responsible for all court costs, fines and fees and may be responsible for the cost of all treatment sessions and drug testing.

The Judge is often a Motivator who provides encouragement in helping the Veteran go thru the Program.

A Program typically consists of 3 Phases usually consisting of Six Months each.

Phase I. Initial Entry. This Phase includes mandatory Court appearances on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, usually a weekly or even daily drug testing, community service, counseling, and mandated appointments. Often considered the most stressful and potentially overwhelming Phase. Designed to start the concept of Teamwork and utilization of the tools provided to make smart independent decisions and avoid the pitfalls that got them into their situation.

Phase II. If the Judge determines the Participant is ready to move on then Phase II gradually allows for more independence and freedom. Drug tests may be random or bi-weekly, Court appearances may now be bi-weekly or monthly. Requirements vary from Court to Court.

Phase III. Usually entered after a year in the Program. Requirements continue to be lifted in preparation for graduation.

The Judge may move the Participant back to Phase II or I at anytime if he or she determines the Participant is regressing.

After Graduation the Judge in coordination with the District Attorney may reduce the original charges.

The intent of the Program is to enable the Veteran to return to the Community and their Loved Ones and Family as a Proud and Contributing member to Society. As one Judge stated "The Most Important Day of the Rest of Your Life is not Graduation, but the Day After". He meant that after Graduation nobody would be looking over the Veteran's shoulder to make sure they made appointments or avoided destructive decisions. The Program provides the Veteran with the Tools they need to make responsible decisions on their own and where to reach for help.

The Judge is the Final Authority on Determining if a Participant Graduates from the Program.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRANCE INTO A VETERANS COURT PROGRAM

US Military Veterans of Any Service or Period of Service are Eligible.

Participants have included Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Cold War.

A Veteran's Participation and Entry into the Program is Voluntary.

VETERAN COURT MENTORS

Veteran Court Mentors are Veteran Volunteers who serve as a Participant's supporter, guide, and confidant.

They attend the Court Sessions with the Participant and help them resolve their issues and also meet with them outside of Court.

Confidentiality of conversations between the Mentor and Participant is paramount. However the Mentor is obligated to report any concerns of safety to the Mentor Coordinator or if deemed an emergency, report immediately to proper authority.

VFW DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS COURT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Expand the Mentor Program
- Increase Awareness of the Veteran Court Program
- Expand the Veteran Court Program (Thru County Memorandums of Agreement or Add Programs)

VETERAN COURT PROGRAMS BY VFW DISTRICT AND COUNTY

VFW District 1 – Philadelphia
VFW District 7 – Delaware
VFW District 8 – Bucks
VFW District 9 – Chester, Lancaster
VFW District 10 – Lackawanna
VFW District 12 – Northumberland
VFW District 13 – Berks
VFW District 15 – Clinton, Lycoming
VFW District 16 – Montgomery
VFW District 18 – Dauphin, Lebanon
VFW District 20 – Carbon
VFW District 21 – York
VFW District 23 – Fayette
VFW District 24 – Washington
VFW District 25 – Beaver, Butler
VFW District 26 – Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana
VFW District 27 – Westmoreland
VFW District 28 – Erie, Mercer
VFW District 29 – Allegheny

A Total of 19 VFW Districts represent 26 Counties.

VFW DISTRICTS WITH A VETERAN TRACKING COURT

VFW District 11 – Luzerne (Adult Drug)

VFW District 25 – Lawrence (Adult Drug)

VFW DISTRICTS WITH NO VETERANS COURT IN THEIR COUNTIES.

VFW Districts 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, and 30.

If you have any questions the please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Puckett, VFW Department Chair of the Veterans Court Program at jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com.



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans & Military Support Program
2026-2027**

Greetings Teammates, my name is Craig Fisher and I am the new Veterans & Military Support Department Program Chairman. The VMS program oversees the Military Assistance Program (MAP), the Adopt-a-Unit Program, Unmet Needs program and the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship". We also oversee the donations which go to the VMS programs which provide monetary support for most of these programs. One of the other ways we earn money for these programs is by selling pins which you will see shortly at one of your district meetings.

Adopt-a-Unit Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/adoptaunitapplication>

MAP Grant Application

<https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support/mapgrantapplication>

In addition to the above programs VMS also two certificate programs.

The VFW National Headquarters has the Legacy Citation of Merit available. Order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our Service Members Killed In Action. Recognize, celebrate, and honor them with your post, auxiliary, and Gold Star Families. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Legacy Citation of Merit to commemorate and memorialize our service members killed in action.

https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Veterans-and-Military-Support/Reports/Legacy-Citation-of-Merit-Instructions.pdf?v=1&d=20220318T155511Z&la=en

The VFW National Headquarters Military Working Dog Recognition Program has a new citation available. Order the Military Working/War Dog Citation to recognize their service, bravery, and devotion to their fellow troops. Step-by-step instructions on how to order the Military Working War Dog citation to recognize their service, bravery and devotion to their fellow troops.

https://vfwprograms.formstack.com/forms/us_mwd_recognition_citation

Lastly, and most importantly, we need to share how we are taking care of Veterans. Our Motto "No One Does More For Veterans" needs to be seen by all. We need to report all the things we are doing for Active, Guard, Reserve and Retired Vets. The Department of PA has not submitted a report to National in years. On the next few pages are examples and blank forms for districts to submit to me monthly. We need to highlight what we are doing for vets, whether it is doing a honor guard for a funeral, a homeless Vet's stand down, a Golf tournament that supports Vets or a Welcome home ceremony.

Any questions: please contact Craig Fisher at cofish17@windstream.net (717) 405-0980

**VETERANS & MILITARY SUPPORT
MONTHLY CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Please submit this form no later than the 30th of each month.
As the Veterans & Military Support Programs Chairman, what did YOU do this past month?

Tell us about all of your Department troop support events not funded by VFW National.

Please include yellow ribbon events, homeless stand downs, District/Post meetings where Veterans & Military Support Programs were discussed or any other events held in support of our service members, veterans and their families!

Don't forget to include attendance numbers for each activity or event.

1	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			

Details of Event

2	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			

Details of Event

3	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			

Details of Event

4	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent		

Details of Event

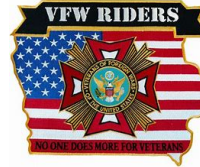
5	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent		

Details of Event

6	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent		

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
VFW Motorcycle Riders Program
2026-2027**

Do you like to ride? Are you looking for quality people to ride with?
Join the VFW Motorcycle Riders!



The purpose of the VFW Riders is to support the VFW by promoting the public visibility of the VFW, its programs, and the VFW National Home through community service and participation in veteran's service events, through responsible motorcycling in our community.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the VFW Riders, you must first be a member in good standing with one of the following:

1. Regular Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
2. Auxiliary Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
3. Social Member "Supporter" of a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post / Home Association

For More Information Contact:

Anthony Warner

anthony@gowarner.com

412-983-8669



**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
79th Annual Voice of Democracy Youth Essay Contest
2026-2027
“What A Veteran Taught Me About America?”**

Info to: Department Commander Jim Brown
Department President Cecelia Cook
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
District Voice of Democracy Chairpersons
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairpersons
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Vince Gavin
State Voice of Democracy Chairperson

Subject: 2026-2027 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition

Theme: **“What A Veteran Taught Me About America?”**

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Welcome to another exciting year of the Annual State Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition. I know that with all your hard work and dedication to this program we will have a very successful year. The following information should help you to get started:

Post and District Chairpersons can access the program guides, find participating Posts, download student brochures, or purchase them online (Item #04420) from the National VFW website www.vfw.org. Students can also complete a Voice of Democracy entry form on the National website using the Voice of Democracy link. The Department website is www.vfwpa.org; where you will find the following Department information: Department deadlines and the student entry brochure, and the Department Perpetual Scholarship information and donation form. For more information on reporting program participation visit, vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard.

State Deadlines for the 2026-2027 Voice of Democracy Program are listed below:

1. October 31, 2026 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight.
2. November 16, 2026 - Post judging completed.
3. December 1, 2026 - District judging completed.
4. December 4, 2026 - District Winner Entry Form, Flash Drive of Essay, Typed Essay, Head and Shoulders Photo of good quality, District Summary Report and District Participation Report **in the hands** of the Department Chairperson.
 - a. **These Items Must Be Mailed.** If you have a digital recorded essay, please download it to a flash drive and mail it, for ease of judging.

DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.

5. December 11, 2026 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
6. January 15, 2027 - Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters.
7. January 18, 2027 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet, Penn Stater Hotel, State College

The 2026-2027 State Auxiliary Chairperson is Karen Mooney. If you have any questions or concerns, Karen and I can be contacted as follows:

Vince Gavin
658 Miller Street
Eynon, PA 18403
(570) 862-2955
Email: vincentdangavin@gmail.com

Karen Mooney
81 Greenwood Drive
New Cumberland, PA 17070
717-580-3994
E-mail: karenmooneycpc@comcast.net

We are looking forward to meeting and talking with each one of you during this program year. Please review the Program and Entry Form as well as the PA State Perpetual Scholarship Fund information and donation forms. Please make copies for your Post Chairpersons, Auxiliary Chairpersons, and the Members so that they can promote and work this very important Youth Activity. As you promote the programs, please encourage participation in the Perpetual Scholarship Fund.

REMINDER: One of Commander Brown's requirements for All State Post is a Voice of Democracy entry or monetary donation in lieu of an entry. **All Divisions: Donation of \$500.00**

Thank you!

In Support of our Troops and Friendship in the VFW and Its Auxiliary,

Vince Gavin
VFW Department of Pennsylvania Voice of Democracy Chairperson
vincentdangavin@gmail.com
570-862-2955

**Annual Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program
Department Of Pennsylvania VFW**



Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

The Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Perpetual Scholarship Fund was started a few years ago to give every District Winner in the state a minimum \$500 cash. Because of declining interest rates, the fund is not financially self-sustaining. All 25 prizes have been sponsored. However, there are still many Private Party Individuals, Posts, County Councils, District VFW and Auxiliaries that have inquired about continuing to support the Perpetual Scholarship Fund. To give recognition to all of those who so generously donate, we have established a fund entitled “**DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM**”. In order to become a member of this esteemed program, the minimum donation is \$500.00 or above. All these donations will be acknowledged annually at the Voice of Democracy Banquet (both verbally and in the program booklet).

Private Party Individuals, Posts, County Councils, District VFW and Auxiliaries that would like to donate \$499.00 or below; your name or unit will become a “**PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP PATRON DONATION**”. All these donations will be acknowledged annually at the Voice of Democracy Banquet. Please use the enclosed forms to make your donations.

VERY IMPORTANT! All Perpetual Scholarships will remain open and additional donations can be added at any time. Example—Two \$500.00 donations will become a \$1,000.00 Perpetual Scholarship Donation.

Vince Gavin
State Voice of Democracy Chairperson

PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORMS
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

\$500.00 AND ABOVE
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PERPETUAL
SCHOLARSHIP DONATION TO THE VOICE OF DEMOCRACY PROGRAM

AMOUNT OF DONATION: \$ _____
CHECK NUMBER: _____

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC AS TO HOW YOUR DONATION SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED
AND PRINTED IN THE AD BOOKLET OR ADD TO EXISTING DONATION

\$499.00 AND BELOW
PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP PATRON DONATION

AMOUNT OF DONATION: \$ _____
CHECK NUMBER: _____

PLEASE BE SPECIFIC AS TO HOW YOUR DONATION SHOULD BE LISTED AS A
PATRON PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION OR ADD TO EXISTING
DONATION

MAIL FORMS TO:
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
4002 FENTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17109-5943

2026-2027 Theme “What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

Student Entry Deadline: Oct. 31, 2026
Patriotic Audio Essay Competition Grand Prize: \$35,000 Award

What is the Voice of Democracy Program?

Since 1947, the Voice of Democracy has been the Veterans of Foreign Wars’ (VFW’s) premier scholarship program. Each year, nearly 26,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. National winners will be notified of their scholarship & placement. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme is,

“What a Veteran Taught Me About America”

The Rules

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions: or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

You must be the sole author of your essay. Inappropriate use of ChatGPT or other AI tools is not allowed. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. Hearing/speech impaired students should email the Voice of Democracy National Office at youthscholarships@vfw.org for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. To ensure fairness and impartiality in judging, essays **must be anonymous**. **Please do not include your name, address, school name, or any other personal identifiers in the body of your essay.** Additionally, avoid references to your race, sex, religion, national origin, or other specific personal characteristics that could reveal your identity. General references to nationality or patriotic identity (such as being an American or referencing American values) are permitted if they are relevant to the essay theme. However, personal identifiers tied to your individual background or experience should be avoided.

You may enter only one competition at one Post (if otherwise eligible) per year. At any time during the contest, additional participant personal information could be requested by the VFW, including but not limited to a photograph, SSN, or biographical information.

Advancement

Decisions of Judges at all levels are final. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. Contact the post where you entered at to check on your advancement

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2026. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location - ensuring it is a participating Post.

How do I enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio in MP3 format (no videos) on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, a typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging.

All entries begin at the VFW Post level. The only exception is where schools/classes/youth groups have large numbers of students and wish to conduct their own competition, Submitting one winner for each 15 students to the VFW Post. Individual students may submit their entry directly to a Post. Your local post will give instructions on how to turn in your entry to them. Audio may be submitted physically on a Flash Drive, emailed to the Post (with permission) or submitted through our online platform using Scholars App. **To submit through Scholars App you must first receive a QR code or link from your local post.** Entries sent to VFW National Headquarters directly will not be considered.

If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: Visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](https://www.vfw.org/FindaPost) to “Find A VFW Post.” If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit this link <https://www.vfw.org/ContactUs/> and look for “Find a State Contact” to get your VFW state office’s phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at [VFW National Headquarters at youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org).

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Originality is worth 35 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Content is worth 30 points:

Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to another.

2026-2027 Official Entry Form Voice of Democracy Competition

Must Be Completed by All Contestants

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy)

Grade in School

Age

Jacket Size

School Name, City, State

Teacher's Name and Email (if applicable)

To Be Completed by Student's Parent/Guardian

(Required even if student is 18 or over)

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

()

Parent/Guardian Daytime Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Participant Agreement for Students Advancing to National Level

If selected as a first-place state winner, I have the consent of my parent/guardian and school to attend the Founding Forward Spirit of America Leadership trip to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania as a guest of the VFW National Organization. In consideration for permission to participate in the National Voice of Democracy Competition ("Competition") I do hereby, for myself, for my heirs, executors, administrators and assignees, waive, release and discharge all rights and claims which I have or which may hereafter accrue against the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and/or the Departments (state organizations) of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their respective officers, agents, successors and assigns from any damages which may be sustained by me in connection with my participation in or association with the Competition and/or arising out of any travel related to the Competition. In the event of sickness, accident or injury in connection with the Competition, I consent to and accept the services of a duly licensed medical, surgical or dental specialist selected on my behalf and for such treatments, as they may deem necessary. I understand that VFW will not be liable for such treatment. I further understand that the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States retains non-exclusive rights to use my audio file, essay, name and likeness in the promotion and execution of the organization's programs and activities.

I Have Read and Understand the Rules and Participant Agreement

I certify that I am the sole author of the enclosed audio/essay entry and that I have not inappropriately used any AI tools or Chat GPT. I have only entered the competition once yearly if otherwise eligible. I understand that if it is found that I have entered any other Post's competition or used this essay for another VFW competition, I face elimination from the competition and will return any and all prizes or incentives awarded.

Signature of Student Participant

Date

To Be Completed by the VFW Post

I certify that this student has an authorized entry in our VFW Post level Voice of Democracy Competition.

Post Commander/Chairperson Signature

Post #

VFW Auxiliary President/Chairperson Signature (if applicable)

Post Address

City, State, Zip

VFW Post Email

No. of students participating

No. of winners advanced to District

Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$

Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses (banquet, pins, etc.) \$

To Be Completed by the VFW District

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Voice of Democracy Contest District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairperson Signature

Dist. #

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Phone

Email

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairperson

I certify that the student named in the previous section is the duly selected first place winner of the Voice of Democracy Department Competition and is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairperson Signature

()

Daytime Phone

Email

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first place Department winner on _____.

For assistance contact:

816.968.2787

Email: youthscholarships@vfw.org

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____

Alternate Contact: _____

Phone: _____

Best Time To Call: _____





2027 PA Women Veterans Conference & Resource Fair

March 5-7, 2027

Doubletree by Hilton Reading, PA

Sponsored by Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

All women veterans in Pennsylvania are welcome to attend

You do not need to be a member of the VFW in order to attend.

Please join us for a time of fellowship, camaraderie, workshops and presentations by, for, and about women veterans—highlighting the issues that matter and impact them directly.

Each year is different, don't miss out!

Preregistration is required. This event fills quickly!

Register and view the agenda by using the QR code:

Or visit www.vfwpa.org (under the "Programs" tab)

Final Registration 01/31/2027 *(or until sold out)*



This event is organized and supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pennsylvania, with financial contributions from Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, & Individuals.

Location: Doubletree by Hilton, 701 Penn St, Reading, PA 19601

2027 will continue to offer an expanded format, consisting of breakout sessions, resource and informational vendors, an optional craft class and "down-time" to develop and renew personal connections. Each year is different, don't miss out!

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

Women Veterans Chairperson Amy MacKenzie

717.575.3982

pawomenvets@gmail.com

DONATION REQUEST



The VFW Department of Pennsylvania hosts an annual Conference for Pennsylvania Women Veterans to gather in a relaxed atmosphere to discuss various topics with fellow women veterans.

All women veterans are welcome to attend, not just VFW members!

Our March 2026 had 164 women veterans in attendance, and it was a huge success.

We are already planning for the March 5-7, 2027 event in Reading, PA.

This letter is to ask for your financial support to continue to provide a quality program for our women Veterans, often times an overlooked and neglected part of our society.

We provide access to much needed information related to Filing a VA Claim, Obtaining a Service Animal, Counseling for Military Sexual Trauma, Suicide Awareness and prevention, Homeless Veteran Treatment Options, Financial Planning, Leadership Development, and much more.

We hope your organization is able to donate to this program, to once again offer our Women Veterans access to much needed information regarding benefits, health care, leadership opportunities and camaraderie for women veterans.

I thank you in advance for your support and also thank you for the generous support you have shown this program in the past. Please contact me if you have questions or require additional information.

Very respectfully,

Amy E. MacKenzie

VFW Department of PA Women Veterans Chairman

717.575.3982

pawomenvets@gmail.com

Cut here -----Cut Here

Yes, our organization _____ is able to contribute financially to the VFW Pennsylvania Women Veterans Conference.

Enclosed please find our donation of \$100.00 \$150.00 Other \$ _____

Mail donations to

VFW Dept of PA State Headquarters
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943
Attn: Women Veterans Conference

**Department of Pennsylvania
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Youth Activities / Scout of the Year Program
2026-2027**

The VFW Scout of the Year Program is open to Scouts who are registered and active members of a Boy Scout Troop, Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or Sea Scout Ship, and who have earned one of the following awards:

Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venturing Summit Award, or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award

There is no minimum age requirement for applicants, provided all other eligibility requirements have been met. The maximum age for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant turns 18 during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still enrolled in high school at the time of the submission deadline.

Scouts must download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship application form, along with a resume of high school activities, Scouting record, community service record, and letters of recommendation to a local VFW Post no later than March 1.

Note: A Scout may enter through one VFW Post only. Applications may not be submitted directly to the Department. All entries must be submitted through a local VFW Post.

Local VFW Posts shall submit their winning candidate's completed packet, including all required entry materials, to their respective District. The District shall then forward the completed entry to the VFW Department Youth Activities/Scouting Chairperson no later than April 1.

Please ensure that each packet is fully completed, includes all required documentation, and contains all necessary signatures. If District judging is conducted, entries must be forwarded to the District in enough time to allow the Department to receive the winning entry by the April 1 deadline.

If a District or Post assists another District or Post with an application packet, the District or Post being assisted must list their own District and Post information on the official entry form.

The Department Chairperson will review the entries and select the Department winners. The first-place Department winner will then be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters by May 1 for national-level consideration and recognition.

Judging shall be completed at the Post and/or District level before entries are forwarded to the Department Chairperson for Department-level judging. The Department of Pennsylvania will select 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

For more information, please contact the Pennsylvania VFW Youth Activities/Scouting Chairperson listed below.

Pennsylvania VFW Youth Activities/Scouting Chairperson

Randy J. Rice

Post 3376

201 Snavely Mill Road

Lititz, PA 17543

Email: randy-rice@live.com

Phone: (717) 814-7914

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program



WHAT IS THE SCOUT OF THE YEAR PROGRAM?

Annually, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States recognizes individuals who are: Eagle Scouts, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, Venture Summit Award recipients and/or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the qualities of that rank.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To be eligible for the award, the candidate must:

- Be the recipient of the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.
- Be a registered, active member of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew or Sea Scout Ship at the time the above reward was received.
- Have demonstrated exemplary citizenship in school, Scouting and community.

Prior National Scout of the Year winners are ineligible. There is no minimum age requirement for applicants as long as all other eligibility criteria has been met. The maximum age requirement for applicants is 18 years old. If an applicant reaches their 18th birthday during the nomination year, they remain eligible as long as they are still in high school at the time of the submission deadline. A Scout may enter through only one VFW Post. A local Post can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHAT ARE THE DEADLINES?

- Deadline for entry to VFW Post is **March 1**.
- One candidate with full entry criteria must be submitted by a VFW Post to the next level of judging by **April 1**. The VFW Department Scouting Chairman can provide this information.
- The Department winner must be selected and submitted by their Department Scouting chairman to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1**.

Questions should be directed to 816.756.3390, ext. 6787 during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to scouting@vfw.org.

Official Entry Form

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH CONTESTANT
and submitted directly to a VFW post in your community.**

Name: First, M.I., Last

Address

City, State, Zip

()

Home Phone

Email

Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Scout Troop Number

SCOUT/VENTURE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing information is accurate and if I am the winner, I will make myself available to receive the award at a presentation ceremony as designated by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Scout/Venture Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

UNIT LEADER'S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above-named Scout/Venture is an active member of our unit or was when the award was received and the information supplied by the candidate is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Unit Leader's Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

PARENT'S CONSENT

I hereby certify that all information on this application is correct. I willingly submit this name for consideration as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States' Scout of the Year. If this individual is selected as the winner, I will ensure that he/she is allowed to attend a presentation ceremony as designed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Father, Mother or Guardian Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

SCOUT OF THE YEAR Program

VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

PHONE: _____

SPONSORING VFW POST

POST NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST COMMANDER'S SIGNATURE:

DISTRICT CERTIFICATION

IF APPLICABLE, CHECK WITH THE VFW DEPARTMENT SCOUTING CHAIRMAN

DISTRICT #: _____

DISTRICT CDR.: _____

DEPARTMENT CERTIFICATION

MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEPARTMENT VFW SCOUTING CHAIRMAN OR DEPT. COMMANDER

DEPARTMENT: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED?

The following documentation should be submitted:

- **Photograph of the Scout** — must be attached to this form. The Scout must appear in correct, complete uniform for their current rank. Recommended size 3" x 5".
- **School Participation Record** — a single page, one-sided resume of the candidate's school activities indicating academic achievements, offices held, honors received and significant participation in other activities.
- **Scouting Record** — maximum of three pages, one side only, listing of all Scouting participation beginning with Cub Scouts or Brownies - years of participation, unit numbers and sponsors. Also include when Eagle, Gold, Summit or Quartermaster Award was received and Palms. Identify leadership positions held at all levels, participation in Scouting activities (jamborees, Order of the Arrow conferences, etc.) and the candidate's Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster Project.
- **Community Service Record** — a single page, one-sided resume listing participation in community and religious service organizations (excluding Scouting and school), noting leadership positions held and any recognition received.
- **Letters of Recommendation** — Submit three letters, no more than two pages in length from:
 - A scout leader.
 - A community member.
 - A teacher/faculty member (if homeschooled, a parent letter is allowed).
 - In addition, you may include one or two additional letters, no more than two pages in length from local community members who have special knowledge of the candidate's abilities/accomplishments.
- **Completed Entry Form** – submitted to a local VFW Post. Local Posts can be identified by zip code at vfw.org/FindaPost.

WHO MAKES UP THE VFW SCOUTING TEAM?

The backbone of Scouting in the VFW is the VFW Scouting Team. These VFW members are deeply involved in Scouting, most with decades of experience.

Appointed by their Department Commander, they are responsible for promoting scouting in their state. They are available to encourage Posts to sponsor units, support units and individual Scout projects. They should be the Department's "expert" on all phases of scouting. Many Departments have multiple members of the VFW Scouting Team, but every Department should have at least one individual to promote the values of scouting to youth and to the VFW itself. For more information on the VFW Scouting Team call 816.756.3390, ext 6787, or email scouting@vfw.org



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

