

CHECKPOINT



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Posts Open Doors and Offer a Hand to Communities in Hurricane Sandy Aftermath

POSTS ACROSS THE NATION turned their eyes to the Northeast corner of the country when Hurricane Sandy struck late last October. Although states from Florida to Maine battled harsh conditions, New York and New Jersey felt the tropical storm at full force.

After the hurricane passed, New York state estimated \$42 billion in damages and New Jersey was close behind with \$29.4 billion. Thousands were left homeless and millions without power. But before this knowledge became viral, VFW leaped into action.



Post 9486 Past Commander John Mauro (left) and New York State Surgeon Dennis Sullivan unload a truck at Post 260 in Broad Channel, N.Y., on Nov. 17, that came from Ohio Posts, Post 3035 in Delphos and Post 5803 in Van Wert.

PHOTO CREDIT: DENNIS SULLIVAN



VFW Offers \$130,000 for Relief

After hearing about the devastation Hurricane Sandy caused late last October, VFW Headquarters stepped in and donated \$130,000 toward relief efforts. National Military Services additionally assisted 22 families through its *Unmet Needs* program. The families, based in Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, were given a total of \$6,800 for damages from the storm.



Post 260 Commander Matt Conklin (left) receives a check from New York State Commander James Durkin on Nov. 17, at his Post in Broad Channel, N.Y., after their local area was devastated by Hurricane Sandy.

PHOTO CREDIT: DENNIS SULLIVAN



Post 3035 Commander Mike Hughes and member Jerry Mericle sort clothing for the Hurricane Sandy relief effort in early November at their Post in Delphos, Ohio.

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD SCHUCK



Post 3035 trustee Richard Schuck (left), who delivered supplies to Post 260 in Broad Channel, N.Y., on Nov. 17, discusses other relief needs with New York Department Surgeon Dennis Sullivan (center) and American Legion Post 1404 member Steve Smith.

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD SCHUCK



New York State Surgeon Dennis Sullivan (left) and Post 260 Commander Matt Conklin help organize the Post's soup kitchen in Broad Channel, N.Y. on Nov. 17.

PHOTO CREDIT: DENNIS SULLIVAN

Posts opened their hearts and their doors to communities in need. Post 2290 in Manville, N.J., gave shelter to some 140 local residents. Other Posts had no problem getting their hands dirty. Post 4927 in Centereach, N.Y., did everything from rummaging through house ruins in Breezy Point, Brooklyn, to feeding community members.

"We were serving food from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., every day for almost two months after the hurricane hit," said Dennis Sullivan, Post 4927 member and New York Department surgeon. "Veterans in our areas needed us, so we stepped up."

Post 4927 members also worked with other New York Posts including Post 2348 in Astoria, Post 107 in Brooklyn and Post 6431 in Brentwood—just to name a few.

"We called up other Posts, and we all set up soup kitchens and shelters," Sullivan said. "No one gave it a second thought."

Sullivan also explained that while it was a high priority to help everyone, veterans came first on their list.

"We knew the Iraq and Afghanistan Post members had young kids," Sullivan said. "It was a concern of ours to make sure they had diapers, formula and anything else they might need."

Despite being far away, other Posts still lent a hand. Two in Ohio, Post 3035 in Delphos and Post 5803 in Van Wert, raised approximately \$40,000 in clothing, toiletries and generators for Post 260 in Broad Channel and Post 5199 in Rockaway Beach—both located in New York.

"I went through my closet, our members went through theirs," said Colleen Wiley, commander of Post 5803. "It was just bag after bag being donated. I was extremely proud of my Post."

Meanwhile, Post 6975 in Bristol, Tenn., hosted a Hurricane Sandy relief music concert on Dec. 15, when local musicians played everything from bluegrass to classic rock.

"We just wanted to help where we could," Senior Vice Commander Gary Maiden said. They raised some \$1,500—giving 100% of proceeds to Sandy victims.

Post 10476 Commander Roger Luedtke in Rotonda West, Fla., sought out Posts near Seaside Heights, N.J., on Google Maps. He came across Post 8867 in Brick, N.J., which was planning a community-wide Thanksgiving dinner before Sandy struck. Post 10476 stepped up and donated \$2,000 to members. The money went toward more than 100 gift cards for a local supermarket.

"It's a great feeling knowing we're here to take care of our brothers and sisters," Sullivan said. "That's what we're here to do—vets helping vets."

E-mail: kdawson@vfw.org

EXTRA! EXTRA!

PUBLICATIONS CONTEST DEADLINE IS APRIL 5



The deadline for entries in the 2013 VFW National Publications Contest is **April 5**.

One copy of each winning Post, District and Department publication must be mailed by Department adjutants, quartermasters or Department editors. Entries received from anyone else will be immediately disqualified.

If you require further information before then, please call (816) 756-3390 ext. 167, or e-mail kgibson@vfw.org.

WEBSITE CONTEST DEADLINE APRIL 19

Be sure your VFW Post, District and Department websites are polished and up-to-date for the 2013 VFW WebAwards competition. Submissions and judging information will be announced on **March 25**. The deadline to enter is **April 19**. Additional information will be found by visiting www.vfw.org after March 25.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CONVENTION HOUSING



Make housing arrangements now for the 114th National Convention, July 20-24, in Louisville, Ky.

Housing and registration forms with your Post election mailings were sent out Feb. 15. VFW's bylaws state that each Post must register at least one delegate for the convention.

To make housing reservations, call 1-800-743-3100, fax 1-502-561-3121, mail to LCVB Housing, 401 West Main St., Ste. 2300, Louisville, Ky, 40202, or e-mail jworkman@gotolouisville.com.

Additional information is located at www.vfw.org. The website also has general convention information including the registration form, links to other convention-related material and a tentative schedule.

All advance registrations should be mailed to VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, ATTN: Convention Registration, or you may register online by visiting www.vfw.org.

RE-PURPOSE YOUR BONDS

Do you have bonds that have stopped earning interest for you? Did you know that while your bonds are not taxed in your lifetime, your loved ones will be taxed once they inherit them? You can bequeath your bonds to VFW, and because we are tax-exempt, we will receive the full value of your savings. To find out more, visit www.vfw.org/plannedgiving, call (816) 968-1119 or e-mail plannedgiving@vfw.org.

MEMBER BENEFITS OFFER REBATES ON DAILY EXPENSES

The VFW Everyday Bargains program is a great opportunity to save money on your everyday expenses — members can save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year. Benefits include utility rebates, grocery gift cards, dining certificates, reimbursement for auto repair and other discounts — savings you can really use. For a nominal annual fee you can enroll in this benefit program. To see savings examples and to learn more, click the Everyday Bargains featured product at www.vfwinsurance.com.



GET CUSTOMIZED VFW PRODUCTS FROM THE VFW STORE

Looking to have shirts, hats or other items specialized with your logo? The VFW Store does customization. We offer thousands of products at competitive prices. To get a **free** quote, call Kim Winston at 816-968-1181 or e-mail her at kwinston@vfw.org.

Leadership Perspectives

Allen "Gunner" Kent, Adjutant General

Student Vets Could be VFW Leaders

VFW officially joined forces with a group of college-educated veterans in January. VFW and the Student Veterans of America (SVA) signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" on Jan. 3 outlining how the two organizations can help each other and ensure that student vets succeed in college.

This relationship is a "win-win" for both groups. As former VFW Commander-in-Chief Jim Nier, who is now VFW's director of Student Veterans Outreach, said, "There is a high degree of synergy between VFW and SVA."

He added that both groups have a mission of veterans advocacy, community service and peer-to-peer support for veterans. Our views are aligned on veterans education, health issues, employment rights and job opportunities.

SVA is a non-profit [501 (c) (3)] organization based in Washington, D.C. It counts more than 21,000 members at 748 college chapters in all 50

states and two foreign countries. It seeks to "help veterans reintegrate into campus life and succeed academically," according to the agreement it signed with VFW.

Research by VFW's Membership Department shows the average SVA member is around 27-28 years old and that some 75% of SVA members are VFW eligible.

SVA is a rapidly growing group and can lean on VFW for help in organizing and administering its membership and programs. In turn, VFW gets access to a prized demographic: an organized group of college-educated veterans with energy and enthusiasm. We also garner insight on how to best interact with young men and women veterans in the 21st century.

We plan to pair up VFW Posts and SVA chapters in the same areas. Posts in Florida, Colorado, Texas and Ohio will be some of the forerunners.

All VFW Departments are now appointing liaisons to work with SVA chapters.

This bodes well for the future of both VFW and SVA.



Bob Greene, Quartermaster General

Treat Women Vets Equally

When many of us joined the military, there were very few women in the service. In fact, during Vietnam, women accounted for just 3% of the military. Today, women make up 15% of the active-duty force and 20% of new recruits. How do we as a veterans organization adjust to this change?

First, we recognize that women are veterans, too, and can make a valuable contribution to VFW. We need to treat them as comrades and welcome them into our Posts. Mentor them as you should all new members, so that they are prepared to take on leadership roles.

Second, recognize that society has changed, and women today expect to be treated with equality and respect. It is no longer acceptable to refer to them as "girl," "babe," or "honey." They are just as capable of running a meeting, coordinating an event or helping a veteran as any other member. They are our comrades, having made the same sacrifices as

other members.

And third, recognize that sexual harassment is a problem that must be dealt with. Sexual harassment is any unwanted behavior of a sexual nature or an environment that is intimidating, hostile or offensive. It is illegal, it harms the victim and it hurts the organization.

There are no winners, so don't let this happen at your Post. Have a clear policy that everyone—members, employees and visitors—will be treated fairly and with respect. Take action if you find members who do not adhere to these standards. Our reputation and our future are at stake when we let bad situations persist.

Our younger members, many of whom are women, represent the future of VFW. Let's welcome them with open arms, listen to their ideas and appreciate their experience and energy. We'll all be better for it.



CHECKPOINT

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Correspondence can be sent to the editor at VFW National Headquarters.

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NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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Tennessee Service Officer 'Very Proactive' in Helping Veterans

BEING A SERVICE OFFICER is a very rewarding job, according to Danny Breeding. His motivation stems from his military service.

The Vietnam veteran was drafted in 1969, and served with C Co, 2nd Bn., 12th Inf. Regt., 25th Inf. Div., in 1970. Breeding was wounded during the U.S. invasion of Cambodia.

"I saw my buddies shot right next to me," Breeding said. "I wouldn't have made it home if the good Lord wasn't looking out for me and thanks to a lot of prayers from back home."

And so Breeding dedicates his work to the six men in his unit killed in Vietnam in 1970. He says there was a reason he came home alive.

"This was the Lord's plan for me," he said. "I do it in their memory. I think that's the greatest thing anyone can do."

Breeding, a life member at Post 9543 in Rogersville, Tenn., retired from his job at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport, Tenn., in 2006.

When the former Hawkins County veterans service officer left later that year,

Breeding received the nomination to take over and has held the job for six years. It just made sense for Breeding to fill the position at his VFW Post—which he has held since he transferred to Post 9543 in 2006—as well as for his local DAV and American Legion chapters.

"Everyone knows where to find me," Breeding said. "If someone needs help,

they just come down to the courthouse."

Breeding became interested in filing claims when he started filing his own. After that, he helped fellow employees at Eastman enroll in VA healthcare.

Since becoming county service officer, Breeding has helped increase the total amount of benefit dollars in the county from \$2.4 million to more than \$20 million.

Breeding says he saw the influx of successful claims with the Nehmer class action lawsuit, which required VA to revisit medical claims denied before Agent Orange-related diseases had been added to the presumptive list—diseases such as Ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's and B-Cell leukemia. Breeding helped numerous Vietnam veterans, 19 of whom received more than \$500,000 retroactively.

"Hey, if VA goes broke," Breeding said, "I'm glad it's going to Vietnam veterans."

Breeding describes himself as "very proactive," and hosts seminars regarding widow's benefits and assisted living benefits. Many

people who utilize his services hear about him through word-of-mouth.

"The best part of my job is seeing veterans get what they're entitled to, no matter what branch or era," Breeding said. "I worked 38 years for a chemical company, and now I'm making a third of the money but it's the most rewarding job I've ever had. Just going

"Just going home at night and knowing you've helped someone is so rewarding."



—Danny Breeding, service officer, Post 9543



Danny Breeding (right) meets with a veteran in his Rogersville, Tenn., office to discuss filing claims with VA in February 2013. Breeding has helped increase the amount of money received by county veterans from \$2 million to \$20 million in six years.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNY BREEDING



home at night and knowing you've helped someone is so rewarding."

Breeding stresses education and training as the backbone to being a successful service officer.

"Here in Tennessee, we're very fortunate because county service officers get the same state training through the Tennessee Department of Veteran Affairs," Breeding said. He keeps up by taking numerous training courses each year and receives e-mail updates from the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

"This is a want-to job," Breeding said. "That's the main thing. If you have someone who wants to help fellow veterans, they will excel."

Breeding also is involved with his annual unit reunion gathering. He hosts his company, and the event has grown to what Breeding deems a "battalion gathering" though it started as just a reunion for Charlie Company in 2004 when a group of three friends met in Austin, Texas, for the first time in 34 years. Since then, it has grown to 141 attendees.

"Every year we see people making contact for the first time, and it's very heartwarming," Breeding said. "We've been there and done that, so we know how people feel for the first time—not knowing what to expect, apprehensive. But it's a great experience."

E-mail: kgibson@vfw.org

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

Do you need help filing a claim?

VFW's National Veteran's Services has a VFW Department service officer locator on its website. To find a service officer near you, just follow these easy steps:

1. Visit www.vfw.org/nvs.
2. Select "ASSISTANCE" from the menu.
3. Select "NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE" from the pull-down menu.
4. Locate the "FIND A SERVICE OFFICER" box on the right-hand side of the screen.
5. Select your state and hit "GO".

FIND A SERVICE OFFICER

State

GO >>

WANTED
Outstanding Service Officers

We would like to read about the hard work your Post and Department service officers are doing. If you would like to see them receive some much-deserved recognition, send us a brief note explaining why.

Please send information to:
Checkpoint
Attn: Outstanding Service Officers
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
or call (816) 968-1171
or e-mail tdyhouse@vfw.org

Post Sends Thousands of Packages to Troops with Community Help

POST 7539 IN BLOOMINGDALE, ILL., considers themselves a lot more than a place for beer, Bingo and French fries. Deployed troops in Iraq and Afghanistan who have received some 6,000 care packages from the Post over the last 10 years would agree.

Former Department of Illinois Commander Bill Wolff (2010-2011), along with his Post, came up with the program in 2003 after they adopted the 1st Bn., 64th Armor Regt., while it was in Iraq. "Adopting a unit was a great feeling," said Chuck Groner, the Post's senior vice commander. "All we wanted to do was show our support while they were deployed."

 "We remember receiving care packages when we were serving. It's the highlight of your day."

— Chuck Groner, Senior Vice Commander, Post 7539

And they did show their support by sending hundreds of care packages overseas. "We send anything you could buy at a convenient store," Wolff said. "Reading material, bubble gum, batteries—you name it." Every item sent was donated, including knit hats made by community members.

But local involvement with the Post's mission didn't end with knitted goods. Overseas shipping exceeds pocket change, costing \$13.45 per box. Wolff and his project committee, needing extra help, distributed ready-to-ship care packages to area churches. After each Mass, parishioners took displayed

boxes and sent them, paying the shipping costs themselves.

After the Post's adopted unit came home, they continued to send to any troops community members knew who were deployed. From December 2012 to January 2013, members sent 560 packages to 117 servicemembers in Afghanistan. "We remember receiving care packages when we were serving," said Groner, who served in Vietnam. "It's the highlight of your day."

According to Wolff, the Post has no intention of slowing down and plans on sending another wave of care packages to 47 troops in February. "We're just trying to do something good for our men and women over there," said Wolff.

E-mail: kdawson@vfw.org



Post 7539 member, Joe Boyce, received his care package sent from his Post in December 2012 while he was in Afghanistan.



Post 7539 members prepare care packages for deployed troops in Afghanistan last December.

PHOTO CREDIT: GERALD YOUNG

'We Go for Them'

New Jersey Post Makes 17th Visit to Walter Reed Medical Center

ON THE MORNING OF OCT. 18, 2012, members of Post 8946 in Woodcliff Lake, N.J., were awake before the crack of dawn and packing their van full of supplies for a day-long trip. In a few hours they would arrive at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., to warm the spirits of wounded warriors.

But this Post isn't a stranger to early morning car rides. In fact, the members' most recent trip made it their 17th visit to the former naval hospital. According to Post Commander George Kritzler, their visits started in June 2006 as part of the Post's Wounded Warrior program. Their inspiration stemmed from simply wanting to help where they could.

"They continue to be devoted to their units and their country with remarkable spirit."

— Bill Houston, Quartermaster, Post 8946

"Most of the guys [at Walter Reed] lost legs and arms after being hit with an improvised explosive device (IED)," Post Quartermaster Bill Houston said. "They continue to be devoted to their units and their country with remarkable spirit."

While at Walter Reed, members typically visit between 20 and 30 patients and provide them with donated items such as electric shavers, DVD players and clothing that can be easily removed. As of their latest trip, members handed out Nook E-Readers that allow the recipients to download reading material. "With the Nooks, [servicemembers] are able to download their hometown newspapers to keep up with what's going on back home," Houston said.

Post members are in the process of planning their next trip this spring and are hoping to see other Posts visit the wounded warriors. "We'll keep going as long as there are troops in Afghanistan," Houston said. "We go for them."

E-mail: kdawson@vfw.org



Post 8946 members, Commander George Kritzler, Service Officer Joseph Poggi, Quartermaster Bill Houston and Past Commander Raymond Johns visit with an employee of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., in October.

PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE KRITZLER

Illinois Post Educates Scouts in Community Event

Last fall, Post 4495 in Taylorville, Ill., hosted a flag retirement ceremony. According to Post Commander Glen Goodrich, it also served as an educational opportunity for Cub Scout Pack 132.

"This is an annual event," Goodrich said. "We invite the community to bring their worn flags, which we retire privately. But during the actual ceremony with the Scouts we do one flag so that they can learn what it is all about."

He said that the actual burning is done by a Post member, but that the Scouts are hands on in the learning process. As each stripe is cut, for instance, the Scouts take turns walking the fabric to give to the burner.

Goodrich, who also is the Department of Illinois youth activities director, said his Post has gotten involved in nominating Eagle Scouts for VFW's Eagle Scout Award, as well.

"When I first started doing this I had people tell me they didn't know any Eagle Scouts," Goodrich said. "I told them that's because they weren't going out and looking for them."

Two to three times per year, the Post sponsors flag retirement ceremonies.



Members of Post 4495 in Taylorville, Ill., instruct Cub Scout Pack 132 in the proper way to dispose of the U.S. flag last fall.

PHOTO CREDIT: ILLINOIS VFW NEWS

\$143,000 Donated in 2012

Pennsylvania Post Saves Area JROTC

Even though the Coatesville Area Senior High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) received national accolades in 2012, the Coatesville Area school board voted to discontinue the JROTC program due to financial difficulties.

Last spring, a group of parents and community members formed Friends of Pennsylvania 771 to raise \$157,000 to save the program.

Among the donors was VFW Post 845 in Downingtown, Pa. In 2012 alone, the Post donated \$143,000 to charitable causes, including \$10,000 to Unit 771.

Post Commander Miguel Hernandez said members were happy to help save the JROTC program, which did raise the necessary funds to stay intact.

"We heard that the Coatesville JROTC was having issues, and we wanted to do what we could to help," Hernandez said.

At Coatesville High, Unit 771 has been in existence for more than 30 years. In 2012, the unit was honored by the Air Force JROTC Headquarters with its highest award as a Distinguished Unit with Merit. The cadets performed more than 2,000 hours of community service in the first half of 2012.

Begun in 1916, the JROTC focuses on leadership skills and community service for students who may or may not enter the military.

Post members are no strangers to charitable endeavors. Small games of chance are legal in Pennsylvania as long as 70% of the money goes to charitable causes.

Hernandez says that before any donations are made, he makes sure that the group to receive the money has been audited by an outside source. He also wants an account of how the funds are to be used.

Most recently in January, the Post donated \$5,000 apiece to two local fire houses. That money will be used for fire-prevention education.

Hernandez added that the Post also donates to larger groups such as the American Cancer Society and the Red Cross.

"I am not sure how much Posts in other states donate per year, but that was a great number for us last year," he said. "I anticipate being around there for the calendar year of 2013." E-mail: JBlankenship@vfw.org



Members of Post 845 in Downingtown, Pa., donate \$10,000 to the Coatesville Area Senior High School's JROTC program last September. Pictured with two cadets are past Post Commander Paul Dougherty, Sr. Vice Commander Lenny Gillespie, Post Chaplain Ralph Basetti, Post Ladies Auxiliary President Ginny Topper and Julian Hernandez (holding the sign), son of Post Commander Miguel Hernandez.

PHOTO CREDIT: PENNSYLVANIA VFW NEWS

Scouts Learn from Veterans

Leon Gazella and Steve Kidd, junior vice commander and commander, respectively, of Post 10244 in Ashwaubenon, Wis., demonstrate to Cub Scout Pack 4463 the exact way to fold a U.S. flag, last fall. The youngsters learned what each fold means and the importance of paying due respect to our nation's flag.



PHOTO CREDIT: WISCONSIN VFW NEWS

Consider VFW-Sponsored Programs When Donating Post Proceeds

If your Post is looking to donate to worthy causes, VFW's National Military Services (NMS) is a great place to start. For example, in February, Post 3819 in Reno, Nev., raised \$35,000 for NMS programs. Read ahead to learn more about these programs and where your Post's donation goes.



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What does it do?

This donation-based effort allows VFW Posts to sponsor military-related events. These events—such as welcome home, holiday and family parties—offer unique opportunities for service members, families and local Post members to connect with each other. MAP also sponsors VFW's Adopt-a-Unit program,

which allows Posts to build lasting relationships with local military units and families.

What is my \$20 used for?

\$20 buys five welcome-home meals and boosts morale for service members recently returned from overseas deployments.

How can I donate?

Contact National Military Services by e-mailing nms@vfw.org, or calling Teresa Johnson at (816) 756-3390.



What does it do?

VFW's *Operation Uplink* connects deployed service members to their loved ones with Free Call Days, a program that allows GIs to call home for free on designated days throughout the year.

What is my \$20 used for?

\$20 provides 500 minutes of talk time to troops stationed in the Middle East.

How can I donate?

E-mail uplink@vfw.org or call Darcie Jones at (816) 968-1155



What does it do?

Unmet Needs helps recently discharged or active-duty service members who are experiencing financial hardship due to a military pay issue, deployment, military illness/injury or natural disaster. Grants go toward basic life needs such as housing and vehicle repair expenses; insurance payments; utilities including primary phone, food and incidentals; children's clothing, diapers, formula, essential school or childcare expenses; and medical bills, prescriptions and eyeglasses.

What is my \$20 used for?

Your \$20 could go toward a number of things, from putting a diaper on a baby or food in the mouth of a child. It could be the difference in keeping a family's lights on for a month. In 2012, *Unmet Needs* assisted 158 families with total grants of \$233,717.60.

How can I donate?

E-mail unmetneeds@vfw.org, or call Zach Schwenk or Nila Thompson at 1-866-789-6333. To see eligibility requirements, visit www.vfw.org/nms.

E-mail: kgibson@vfw.org



Youth Program Themes Announced

Updating all Materials is Crucial

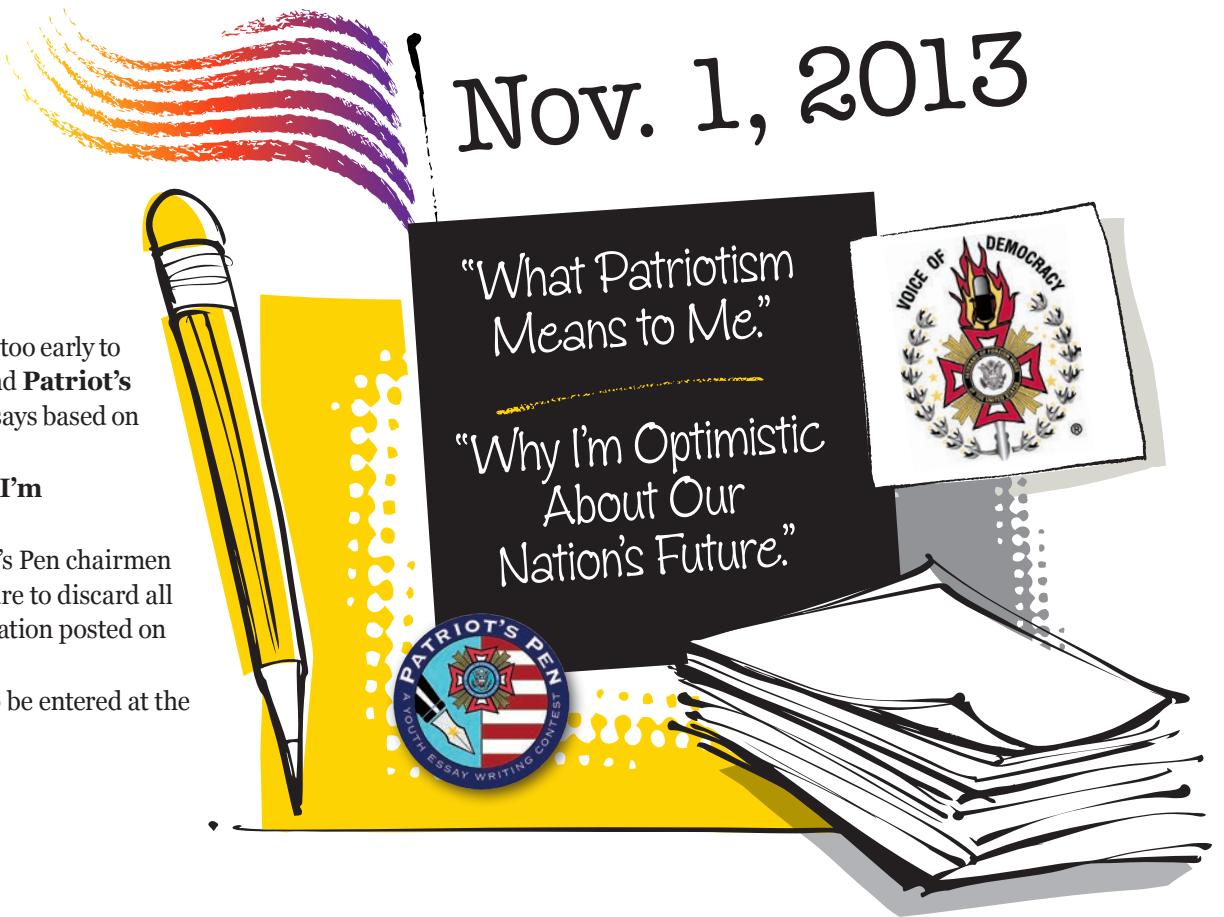
With only a few months left in this school year, it's not too early to begin planning for next year's **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriot's Pen** contests. Patriot's Pen participants will compose essays based on the theme **"What Patriotism Means to Me."**

Meanwhile, VOD's audio essayists will record **"Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future."**

Before announcing 2013-14 themes, VOD and Patriot's Pen chairmen at the Department, District and Post levels need to be sure to discard all documents from the 2012-13 year. Furthermore, information posted on websites or in publications needs to be updated.

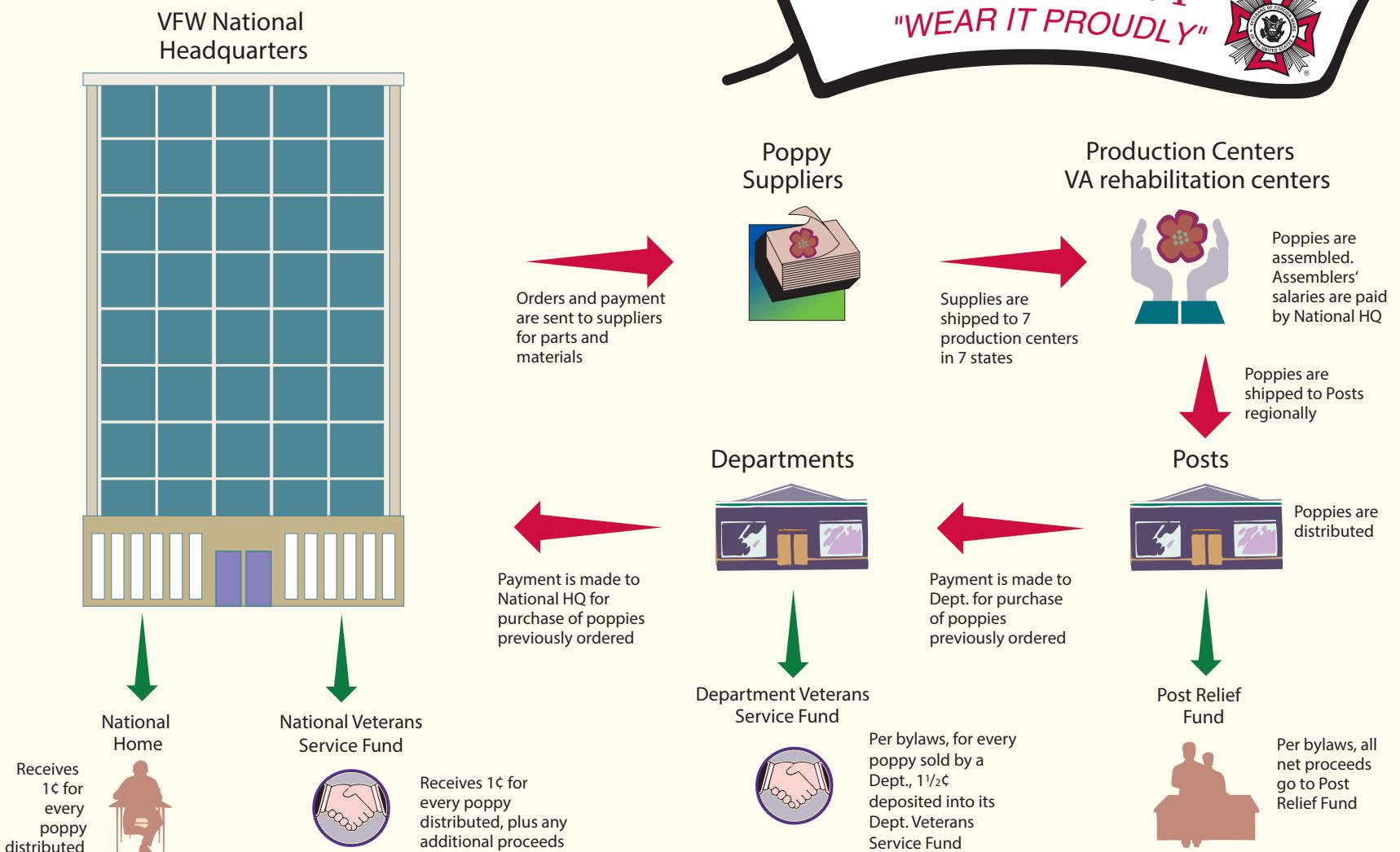
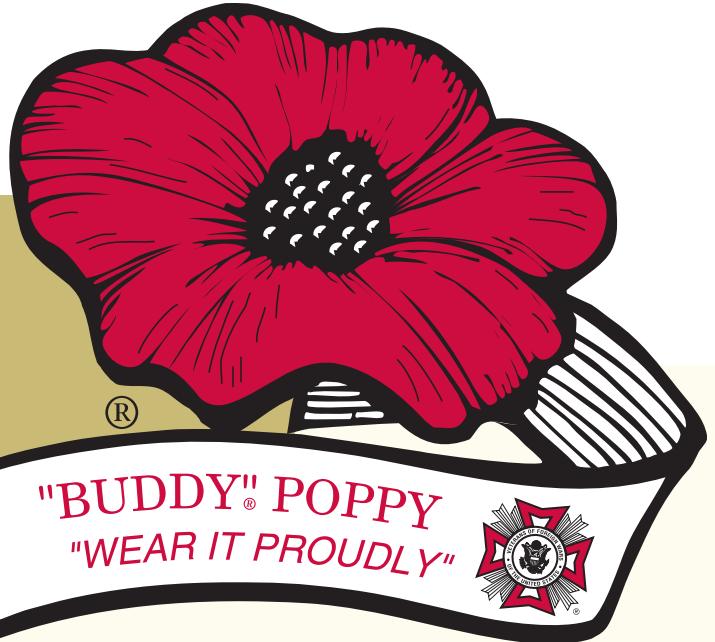
As always, the deadline for entries in both contests to be entered at the Post level is **Nov. 1.**

E-mail: JBlankenship@vfw.org



How Buddy Poppies Get to You

Since 1922, VFW members have been distributing Buddy Poppies worldwide. Last year, nearly 10 million were handed out. Here is a look at how the process works.



Posts with the Most

VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS
OR MORE AS OF FEB. 14, 2013

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members
1	27	Wiesbaden, Germany	2,752
2	1114	Evansville, IN	2,526
3	1503	Dale City, VA	2,359
4	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1,932
5	392	Virginia Beach, VA	1,713
6	6506	Rosedale, MD	1,597
7	2485	Angeles City, Philippines	1,596
8	9785	Eagle River, AK	1,585
9	628	Sioux Falls, SD	1,547
10	4372	Odessa, TX	1,528

Rank	No.	Location	Members
11	4647	North Highlands, CA	1,473
12	8862	Vicenza, Italy	1,472
13	63	Boise, ID	1,461
14	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany	1,447
15	7686	Alamogordo, NM	1,352
16	1146	St Clair Shores, MI	1,344
17	6873	Abilene, TX	1,331
18	7234	Ocean View, DE	1,330
19	972	Terre Haute, IN	1,284
20	10097	Fort Myers Beach, FL	1,282
21	4809	Norfolk, VA	1,235
22	2503	Omaha, NE	1,230
23	10047	North Las Vegas, NV	1,219
24	2111	Chula Vista, CA	1,205
25	76	San Antonio, TX	1,202
26	549	Tucson, AZ	1,171
26	1326	Bismarck, ND	1,171
28	1273	Rapid City, SD	1,165
28	1512	Lemon Grove, CA	1,165
30	969	Tacoma, WA	1,139
31	1599	Chambersburg, PA	1,127
32	3944	Overland-St. Ann, MO	1,102
33	788	Cedar Rapids, IA	1,087
34	3892	Harker Heights, TX	1,075
35	10436	Kitzingen, Germany	1,073
36	1152	Kokomo, IN	1,055
36	56	Leavenworth, KS	1,055
38	1170	Middletown, KY	1,051
39	10420	Murrells Inlet, SC	1,050
40	9223	Arlington, CA	1,047
41	1296	Bloomington, MN	1,043
42	1308	Alton, IL	1,041
43	7968	Apache Junction, AZ	1,026
44	379	Yakima, WA	1,023
45	8951	West York, PA	1,022
46	401	Albuquerque, NM	1,020
47	10216	Sonton-Si, Korea	1,018
48	3282	Port Orange, FL	1,014
49	7175	Millington, TN	1,007
50	9400	Sunnyslope, AZ	1,001

1,608 Recognized to Date

World War II Veterans Leading VFW Posts from Coast to Coast

THE CHECKPOINT STAFF EXTENDS A HEARTY "THANK YOU" to all our World War II Post leaders, members and veterans. And we want to recognize those who still devote time and energy to VFW causes.

Listed below are 50 WWII veterans who serve VFW Posts in official capacities. Checkpoint has recognized a total of 1,608 such Post leaders since the March/April 2009 issue. We will continue to feature this section in subsequent issues until every WWII Post leader whose name is submitted is recognized.

If you would like to recognize a WWII veteran who currently serves your Post, please send us his or her name, official Post position and your Post's location. Send information to:

Checkpoint, Attn: WWII Leaders
406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111
E-mail: tdyhouse@vfw.org



Name	Position	Post/Location	Name	Position	Post/Location
Alfred Adams	Trustee	Post 851, Clarkstown, N.Y.	Paul J. Kopp	Quartermaster	Post 8896, East Berlin, Pa.
Kenneth R. Almond	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 4557, Brookfield, Mo.	Edward Kurdziel	Trustee	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.
Clifford Anderson	Commander	Post 8612, Milford, Pa.	Bill Linden	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 9086, Torrington, Conn.
Eldon Beckman	Trustee	Post 5548, Wessington Springs, S.D.	Jack Lund	Buddy Poppy Chrmn.	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.
Walt Bergenthal	Quartermaster	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.	John Mastrocola	Officer of the Day	Post 9086, Torrington, Conn.
Patrick Boehmer	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3298, Parkston, S.D.	Harold D. Miller	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3239, Lake Andes, S.D.
Bob Bogash	Surgeon	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.	Felix "Sonny" Minelli	Trustee	Post 9086, Torrington, Conn.
Henry Bozard	Surgeon	Post 2779, Orangeburg, S.C.	John Moriarty	Trustee	Post 851, Clarkstown, N.Y.
Robert J. Bruner	Commander	Post 3239, Lake Andes, S.D.	Eugene Nelson	Trustee	Post 9073, Randall, Minn.
John Buchanan	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 7461, Fort Washington, Md.	Lowell R. Nelson	Judge Advocate	Post 6895, Tyndall, S.D.
Roland Buse	Trustee	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.	Lyle Nelson	Surgeon	Post 9073, Randall, Minn.
Anthony Cannata	Quartermaster	Post 851, Clarkstown, N.Y.	Alfred J. Novotny	Trustee	Post 6895, Tyndall, S.D.
Frank Cimino	Chaplain	Post 9086, Torrington, Conn.	Robert Page	Membership Ofc.	Post 3258, Chalfont, Pa.
Ed Damrow	Officer of the Day	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.	Sabatino Paolini	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 851, Clarkstown, N.Y.
Heinz Diessner	Surgeon	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.	Val Price	Trustee	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.
Sid Frazen	Chaplain	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.	Earl Richmond	Trustee	Post 6418, St. Albans, W. Va.
Marvin A. Gall	Quartermaster	Post 3239, Lake Andes, S.D.	Jake D. Ross	Chaplain	Post 4557, Brookfield, Mo.
Charlie Gomez	Trustee	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.	John Schaus	Trustee	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.
Joseph Greene	Guard	Post 3258, Chalfont, Pa.	Regis Serinko	Commander	Post 699, N. Belle Vernon, Pa.
Roy Hagerman	Trustee	Post 2898, Toledo, Ohio	Ray Steffen	Trustee	Post 2779, Orangeburg, S.C.
Jesse Haro	Judge Advocate	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.	Dr. Paul Thomas	Safety Chrmn.	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.
Harold "Hap" Harris	Adjutant	Post 7461, Fort Washington, Md.	Milton Thorson	Trustee	Post 6023, Indiantown, Fla.
Cleadues Hovorka	Chaplain	Post 6895, Tyndall, S.D.	Jack Tukdarian	Trustee	Post 851, Clarkstown, N.Y.
Andrew Kapp	Quartermaster	Post 2304, Milwaukee, Wis.	Seedy Ulrich	Judge Advocate	Post 10778, Western Springs, Ill.
Verne Keats	Trustee	Post 3258, Chalfont, Pa.	John W. Urbanik	Commander	Post 5351, Hanover Township, N.J.