

CHECKPOINT



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Honor Flight Makes Vets 'Look 20 Years Younger'



FOR A SMALL POST IN IOWA, a two-year labor of love comes to fruition this May. Post 6174 in Eldridge, Iowa, rallied the 5,355 residents of Scott County to raise \$65,682 to fund an Honor Flight, a program that transports WWII and Korean War vets to visit their respective memorials in Washington, D.C.

For the past several years, the Post has donated to the Quad Cities hub of Honor Flight, but Duane Miller, Post advocate, says members were particularly inspired to fully fund a flight. According to Miller, an Honor Flight costs \$50,000 generated from donations and sponsorships.

"We were talking at the Post about the community that we have here and thought, 'I bet we could do it ourselves,'" Miller said.

While the Post roster lists 39 members, Miller says only eight of them are active.

"Some members moved out of state; some retired somewhere else and just kept their life memberships here," said Miller, a Vietnam veteran who served from 1964-68. "So it's just a few of us who have been busting our butts."

But the community came out strong to support the Post's goal. Members of Post

6174 discussed various fundraising options and talked to everyone they could to make those options a reality.

"Their eyes lit up, and they immediately asked, 'What can we do for you?'" Miller said.

One of the most successful ventures was a chair auction—cleverly referred to as a "chair-ity"—in which people decorated and donated chairs to be sold. The Post partnered with the local chamber of commerce, coupling the event with the chamber's annual chili cook-off.

Each chair up for auction was painted to embody a theme—many followed a military theme, including one painted by a former Marine who used the chair to depict major WWII battles fought by Marines. The event raised some \$8,000.

The Post also hosted trivia nights, raising \$2,500 over the course of a year, and Post members participated in a fundraising night at Culver's, a frozen custard restaurant franchise.

Post members also reached out to local businesses to place donation cans at cash registers, solicited donations from local organizations and sought grants from the Scott County Regional Authority, which oversees riverboat gambling-generated funds. Through those efforts, Miller says the Post was able to present a check for \$65,682.39, covering the cost necessary to fund the flight.

Miller was a guardian on the Quad Cities hub Honor Flight on Oct. 31, 2013, accompanying WWII veteran Norman Goetz on the day-long adventure to Washington, D.C., to visit national memorials. For Miller, it was an unforgettable experience

"It's a long day for the veterans, but they look 20 years younger than they did the morning when they left," Miller said.

To date, the Quad Cities hub has sent 27 flights to Washington, D.C. The 28th flight will be fully funded by Post efforts and takes off May 29.

Area residents will continue to show their support by attending a welcome-home celebration at the airport that evening. Hundreds of people turn up to show their support—and this time they will be showing their gratitude to VFW also.

"It's really neat the way a small town helps out," Miller said. "It's a big undertaking for a little town like this. But we'll keep donating."

E-mail: kgibson@vfw.org



Members of Post 6174 in Eldridge, Ill., present a check for \$65,682 to Quad Cities Honor Flight. The Post raised money to independently finance a flight this May.



Area residents participate in a trivia night hosted by Post 6174. The Post organized several fund-raising events, including a chair auction (left).



EXTRA! EXTRA!

\$15 SHUTTLES AT 115TH CONVENTION



If you are attending VFW's 115th National Convention in St. Louis, you'll want to make ground transportation reservations now to save yourself time later.

A convention rate has been negotiated with GO BEST Express Airport Shuttle. Reservations MUST be made online before 11:59 p.m., July 15 to receive the discounted rate. Walk-ups will not be eligible for convention rate, and standard rates will apply.

The discounted convention rate of \$15 each way (normally \$22 one-way) per person is offered. Credit cards are required and charged at the time of reservation.

To make your reservations online and secure this discount, visit www.vfw.org and click on the 115th National Convention icon.

SCOOTERS, WHEELCHAIRS FOR RENT IN ST. LOUIS

MediEquip will rent wheelchairs, scooters, and power and lift chairs to those requiring assistance at convention. Contact MediEquip at (314) 965-9300. Or, download a reservation form at www.vfw.org, print it off, fill it in and fax to 314-446-1230.



The following fees are for one week and include pickup and delivery: wheelchair \$90, scooter \$110, power chair \$110 and lift chair \$190.

VFW STORE SELLS MADE-IN-THE-USA FLAGS

VFW Store has everything you need for Memorial Day and Flag Day. Check out our selection of flags, grave markers, memorial wreaths and more at www.vfwstore.org, or call us at 1-800-821-2606 to request a free catalog. Best of all, our flags are made in the USA.

REDUCING YOUR AUTO INSURANCE RATE

If your auto insurance rates have you looking for an alternate company, check out these tips before choosing the right insurance.



- **Drive a modest car.** An expensive car might give you a second dose of sticker shock when you insure it. Get a quote before you buy.
- **Don't be chicken.** Consider raising your deductible if you're able to take on more monetary risk in future accidents.
- **Do not resuscitate.** If you have an older car that you won't likely repair if it's damaged or destroyed, consider dropping your collision and comprehensive protection.
- **Say "I do."** Accident rates are typically lower among married people, so premiums often dip when you wed. And with multi-car discounts, you can usually save money by having all of your coverage with one company.
- **Slow down.** The more traffic violations or accidents on your driving record, the more you can expect to pay for auto insurance.
- **Move to North Dakota.** Premiums vary widely depending on where you live—reflecting factors like crime rates, traffic density and legal costs.

For more information, call VFW's Member Insurance Department at 1-800-821-2606, option 1.

ESTATE PLANS SUPPORT VFW

An up-to-date estate plan is one of the most effective tools for protecting the security of your loved ones. But did you know that you also can use your estate plans to support VFW? For more information, contact VFW's Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119 or by e-mail at plannedgiving@vfw.org.

Leadership Perspectives

John Hamilton, Adjutant General

New TV Show Will Help Vets Find Jobs

VFW has a new relationship that we believe will offer tangible help for the nation's veterans as they transition to the civilian world. In March, we joined forces with the new television program *Hiring America*, the first employment TV program for transitioning vets and their families.

VFW is the first veterans service organization to join *Hiring America*, and it represents our latest endeavor in our rich history of serving veterans.

This relationship comes at a crucial time. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, at the end of 2013, the unemployment rate for veterans who have served since 2001 was 9%, much higher than the 7% reported for the civilian population. And that number was even worse for vets in the 18-24 age group, who had a jobless rate of 21.4% last year.

Major cuts in defense spending and plans for military downsizing now being discussed in Washington won't help those numbers, and that's why we saw the need for action.

Hosted by Gigi Stone, a former CBS News and ABC News correspondent, *Hiring America* launched its second season March 22 and is scheduled to run for 13 consecutive weeks. The 30-minute episodes feature guests with expertise in career counseling and guidance, as well as veterans with first-hand accounts of making the transition to the civilian world.

Hiring America airs Tuesdays and Thursdays on the Pentagon Channel and Sundays on the New England Cable News

network. Additionally, it will be shown at various times and days in some 39 local markets across the nation—a figure that is expected to grow. For more information about *Hiring America*—including where to find it on your local station and access to job listings—visit www.hiringamerica.net.

I'm excited by this new relationship. This is real help for vets when they need it most. Help us spread the word about VFW and *Hiring America*.



Bob Greene, Quartermaster General

Online System Speeds Up Dues Processing

While online dues processing has come a long way, VFW's Member Dues Processing Department still receives about 1,000 pieces of mail a day. Some 75% of these are membership renewals. Our success in processing these dues in a timely manner hinges, to a great extent, on when the mail is received and whether or not the content is completed accurately.

Here are some helpful hints to speed things along when using traditional mail.

- Keep an eye on contest dates; do not wait until the last minute to mail your transmittal. Minimum mailing time to Kansas City is three days, so be sure to consider Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
- Processing time for a member's dues begins the day the renewal is received at VFW National Headquarters and is based on a normal five-day work week. After a payment is processed, a membership card will be mailed to the member the following business day.
- Quartermasters, always be sure to write a separate check for annual members and a separate check for life members. Mixing these payments together requires

the batch to be processed manually, and that takes more time. Address changes and transfers that are mailed in might take several days to process.

With all this said, the fastest and most efficient way to process dues is using the Online Membership System (OMS). OMS is a very powerful tool for both quartermasters and members and results in instantaneous processing of information. OMS also saves time and money, as there are no forms to complete or mail.

Lastly, members can now automatically renew their VFW memberships with AutoPay. With AutoPay, a member provides payment information (credit, debit card or bank account) at www.vfw.org, and membership is automatically renewed annually. A member also can make other changes such as updating contact information or requesting replacement membership cards.

For more information on Member Dues Processing, call toll free 1-800-963-3180, fax 816-968-1115 or e-mail memberduesprocessing@vfw.org. Life membership inquiries should be e-mailed to lifememberprocessing@vfw.org.



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.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

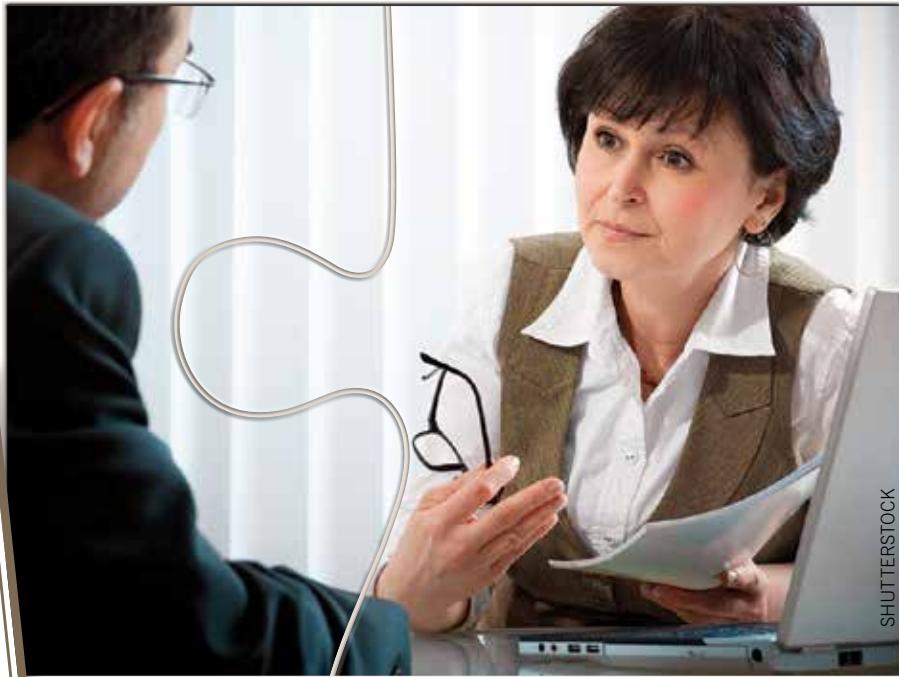
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E-mail: vfw@vfwdc.org

Post Service Officers are 'Important Pieces of the Puzzle'

EVERY ISSUE, CHECKPOINT FEATURES AN OUTSTANDING service officer by highlighting the important work each service officer does in his or her veteran community. But there is a difference between a VFW-accredited service officer and a Post service officer. It can be a complicated process, but it is an important distinction to make when seeking answers on filing claims with VA.



Accreditation Granted in VFW's Washington Office

To be considered for VFW accreditation, service officers must submit required paperwork to VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS), based in Washington, D.C. They also can go through a separate accreditation process to be recognized by VA.

In order to receive accreditation, candidates must fill out two questionnaires: one approved by VFW and one approved by VA.

VFW Department quartermasters or commanders submit a request to Bill Bradshaw, director of NVS. Bradshaw then vets the nominee's legal requirements and good character. If accepted, the nominee's name also is submitted to VA for accreditation.

"VA does its own review and usually, but not always, accredits them," says Jerry Manar, deputy director for NVS.



Once accredited, service officers have access to VA records and must take some 80 hours of classroom instruction regarding VA laws, regulations and programs each year to stay certified. Accredited service officers also are monitored to ensure they adhere to VFW's rules of conduct—simply put, each service officer must maintain "good character," according to Jerry Manar, deputy director for VFW's National Veterans Service.

"These are the people who have direct access to non-medical VA records systems and VA personnel," Manar says. "They are responsible for working to advance claims from veterans whom they represent. They also review VA decisions to ensure they are correct."

If the veteran seeking compensation has given his or her power of attorney to VFW, then accredited service officers can access records regarding dependency, health issues, Social Security status and bank account numbers.

What is most important, Manar stresses, is that these individuals can only gain access to necessary information if they are accredited—and only if that information is vital to getting a positive decision on a VA claim.

"Whenever they identify an error, they are trained to discuss the applicable sections of the law and regulations with VA personnel to convince them to correct the error," Manar says.

Currently, VFW lists some 1,397 accredited service officers who work in VA regional offices, as well as county and state departments, across the country.

While Post service officers do not have access to many of the resources available to accredited service officers, they are still very important pieces of the puzzle. According to Manar, VFW Post service officers are volunteers who offer invaluable contact information for veterans seeking advice on claims filing.

"NVS policy and procedure is clear that, at most, a Post service officer can act as a recorder when helping veterans and should not advise them on how to complete claims," Manar says. "Further, as soon as a claim is received, they are directed to forward it immediately to the Department service officer."

Post service officers receive limited training—only taking some three hours of instruction per year. They should have a copy of VFW's Post service officer guide, which outlines benefits and programs available through VA. Their services are completely free to any veteran or veteran's family. But, Manar says, "Once the claim is sent to the Department service officer, [the Post service officer's] job is finished."

For questions about VFW accreditation or the role of a service officer, contact Jerry Manar at gmanar@vfw.org. You can find a local accredited service officer at www.vfw.org/nvs. E-mail: kgibson@vfw.org

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

NATIONAL VETERANS SERVICE

Do you need help filing a claim?

VFW's National Veterans Service 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 >>

VOD Winner Remains Optimistic about Nation's Future



VFW Commander-in-Chief Bill Thien and National Ladies Auxiliary President Armithea "Sissy" Borel present Madison Haley with the first-place \$30,000 T.C. Selman scholarship for VFW's Voice of Democracy program in March.

MADISON HALEY OF CHESTNUT, ILL., THE 2014 NATIONAL WINNER of VFW's Voice of Democracy (VOD) \$30,000 scholarship, said she had to remind herself to keep breathing while the scholarship recipients' names were being read.

"I just kept praying that my legs wouldn't give out," the Mount Pulaski High School senior said. "I was so nervous. I kept taking deep breaths and thinking, 'I could really do this.'"

As the VOD winner from the Department of Illinois, Haley was one of 54 students to receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital March 1-5. George Washington's former home at Mount Vernon, Va., as well as the National Mall and the Holocaust Museum in the District, were among the sites visited by the orators.

Given the theme "Why I'm Optimistic About our Nation's Future?", Haley compared the U.S. to a ship that, for more than 200 years, has not sunk.

"Facing tsunamis such as the Great Depression, two World Wars and two fallen towers, she sails onward," Haley wrote. "She may bend, but she never breaks. ... She is eventually led back on course by her unwavering compass, the Constitution."

Sponsored by Post 777 in Mount Pulaski, Ill., Haley wrote that she need only look to our nation's past and how far we have come to be optimistic about the future.

"It's not that the ship is unsinkable, but rather, her crew refuses to allow it to sink," she wrote. "Yes, we have strife, and the love of many grows cold, but when the winds roar and the waves threaten, we pull together."

Haley said she can thank her aunt for bringing this scholarship opportunity to her attention. Her mom and grandma made the trip to D.C., too, though they only saw the scholarship winner once.

"It had been on my grandmother's bucket list to visit D.C.," said Haley, who plans to attend North Central College in Naperville, Ill. "I felt honored that through this opportunity, she was able to fulfill her dream."

When Haley begins college in the fall, she plans to major in both athletic training and entrepreneurship. And with the help of the VOD scholarship, the financial burden will be far less.

"It hasn't really hit me and probably won't until I go to college and realize that half of my tuition is paid for," Haley said. "I'm all-around extremely grateful."

E-mail: jblankenship@vfw.org



COURTESY OF KAT MAUNAKEA.



COURTESY OF MAX L'ALANNE



COURTESY OF TALIA DEANDREA



In addition to a visit to the U.S. Capitol building, which included a stop to admire the rotunda, below, VOD participants toured the house and grounds of George Washington's former home at Mount Vernon, Va. A Potomac River boat cruise also was on the list of tourist must-sees.



Connecticut Post Ships 'March Madness' Treats to Troops

Post 7659 in East Hartford, Conn., brought new meaning to "March Madness." On March 2, volunteers gathered at the Post home to pack boxes of snacks to send to troops serving overseas. According to Post Commander Frank Forrest, the idea was to get the boxes to men and women who would be watching college basketball tournaments from overseas later in the month.

Forrest said 25 boxes were packed by community volunteers after the Post advertised in local newspapers. A local Walgreen's donated 300 pounds of after-Valentine's Day candy, and Bloomfield High School students made 1,000 dozen homemade cookies. Girl Scout cookies also are a staple in these care packages. Forrest said his Post has shipped more than 250,000 boxes of donated Girl Scout cookies as part of that organization's "Cookies for Heroes" program.

Each box weighed an average of 17 pounds, and the total cost of postage was \$603. Everything was donated, and Post funds were used for mailing. Home Depot donated boxes while Better Packing supplied the paper tape and tape machines.

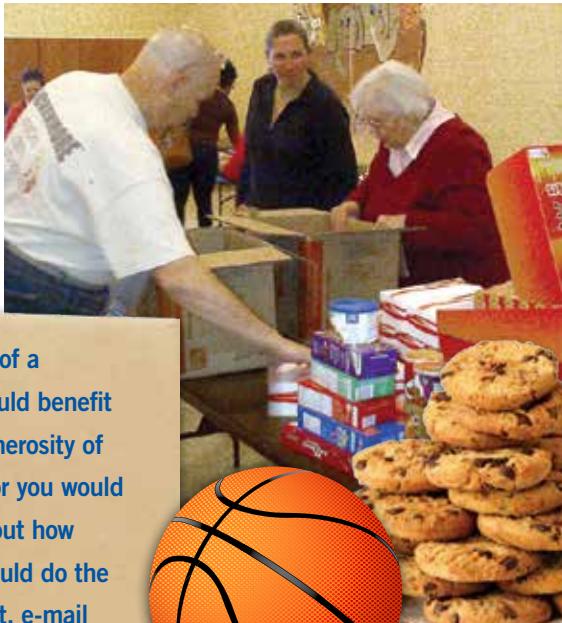
This is not a one-time deal for Post members, though. They also send boxes for major holidays such as Christmas, Easter and July Fourth. Each box also contains a letter asking the troops what they are most interested in receiving.

"It feels good when we get a letter, and they cannot believe how much we send them," Forrest said.

The March Madness packages were mailed to troops in Afghanistan, Honduras and Africa.

"We are always looking for new addresses to mail to regardless of where they are from," Forrest said.

E-mail: jblankenship@vfw.org



Volunteers at Post 7659 in East Hartford, Conn., pack snacks in March to send to troops serving overseas.

If you know of a unit that would benefit from the generosity of Post 7659 or you would like to find out how your Post could do the same project, e-mail glastonburyvfw@aol.com.



1,958 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 1,958 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
Oliver Addair	Honor Guard	Post 1144, laeger, W.Va.
Anton Ahrndt	Trustee	Post 10535, Hooper, Neb.
Arnold Baker	Trustee	Post 5803, Van Wert, Ohio
Fay Bardwell	Chaplain	Post 3295, Deerfield, Mass.
James V. Bennett	Trustee	Post 9599, Jefferson, Iowa
James Bonat	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 2881, Harrison, Ark.
Dale Bouse	Service Officer	Post 11290, Hollister, Mo.
Carl Bozarth	Trustee	Post 8798, Eufaula, Okla.
Harry Buchin	Honor Guard	Post 9264, Macungie, Pa.
Richard Claar	Chaplain	Post 11290, Hollister, Mo.
Raleigh Cooley	Judge Advocate	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Clyde Easter	Honor Guard	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Harold J. Eger	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 2881, Harrison, Ark.
Fred Ensslin	Judge Advocate	Post 1040, Lynnwood, Wash.
Earl D. Eshelman	Quartermaster	Post 9045, Mohnton, Pa.
Jesse Espinosa	Judge Advocate	Post 7471, Dallas, Texas

Name	Position	Post/Location
Earl Fletcher	Surgeon	Post 1514, Village Mills, Texas
Gerhardt Gerike	Adjutant	Post 8478, Augusta, Wis.
Norman Goad	Chaplain	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Oscar Hall	Trustee	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Donald Hart	Trustee	Post 10535, Hooper, Neb.
Donald Heffner	Honor Guard	Post 9264, Macungie, Pa.
Thomas Hoke	Trustee	Post 6658, Emmitsburg, Md.
Glenn Jackson	Flea Market Support	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Oren Jennings	Bugler	Post 1144, laeger, W.Va.
Robert D. Johnson	Canteen Manager	Post 5087, Antwerp, Ohio
Lionel LeBlanc	Trustee	Post 8214, Manchester, N.H.
Marc Marcum	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 11290, Hollister, Mo.
Clarence "Red" McBride	Color Bearer	Post 1144, laeger, W.Va.
Thomas McMahan	Judge Advocate	Post 6354, Garberville, Calif.
Shelton Meaux	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 1514, Village Mills, Texas
Donald Miller	Trustee	Post 9264, Macungie, Pa.
Clarence "Speedy" Mitchell	Trustee	Post 1192, Duncan, Okla.
Clinton Moles	Flea Market Support	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
James Montgomery	Buddy Poppy Comm.	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Bill Morehead	Surgeon	Post 5803, Van Wert, Ohio
William R. Nash	Judge Advocate	Post 4325, Mattoon, Ill.
Herbert Newman	Judge Advocate	Post 6919, Culver, Ind.
John O'Hara	Trustee	Post 2812, Thornton, R.I.
Charles Richison	Trustee	Post 3523, Carlyle, Ill.
Maurilo Sandoval	Surgeon	Post 7471, Dallas, Texas
William Schaffer	Surgeon	Post 9264, Macungie, Pa.
Marvin Schoch	Trustee	Post 9264, Macungie, Pa.
Alton Seeger	Trustee	Post 2977, Jump River, Wis.
Bob Showalter	Honor Guard	Post 1115, Hillsville, Va.
Paul Smith	Trustee	Post 3656, Bristow, Okla.
George Stanek	Judge Advocate	Post 8478, Augusta, Wis.
Ray Starkey	Chaplain	Post 1, Denver, Colo.
Richard Stravlo	Service Officer	Post 8798, Eufaula, Okla.
Roy Walker	Chaplain	Post 1514, Village Mills, Texas



'Meet Me in St. Louis'

St. Louis Boasts a Wealth of Entertainment and Culture

IT HAS BEEN 66 YEARS SINCE VFW ASSEMBLED IN ST. LOUIS for the first and only time in 1948. VFW returns to “The Gateway to the West” this year, just in time to help St. Louisans celebrate the 250th anniversary of the city. The convention will take place July 19-23 at America’s Center, 701 Convention Plaza.

A former French colony founded by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau in 1764, St. Louis boasts a rich history of exploration and trade. The city, situated along the Mississippi River, was a major hub in the fur trade network and steamboat transport in the 1800s. St. Louis also hosted the World’s Fair and the Summer Olympics—both in 1904. Here are some attractions to check out during your stay:

Busch Stadium, 700 Clark Ave., St. Louis, MO 63102, (314) 345-9600:

Take a tour of the home of the Cardinals, 11-time World Series champions, located in the heart of downtown St. Louis. If you have time, catch a game—and maybe a foul ball—as the Cards will face the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Tampa Bay Rays during VFW’s stay. Be sure to check VFW’s web site for information on how to get discounted baseball tickets.

Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour, 12th & Lynch Street St. Louis, MO 63118, (314) 577-2626:

The international brewery offers free tours daily. Each tour includes the opportunity to see the famous Budweiser Clydesdale stable, as well as a behind-the-scenes look at how the world-famous brand brews its beer.

Gateway Arch and Riverboat, 200 Washington Ave. St. Louis, MO 63102, (314) 982-1410:

For the best view of the city, take a 630-foot elevator ride to the top of the iconic St. Louis Arch. Be sure to check out the Museum of Westward Expansion at the base of the Arch. And while you’re closer to the ground, take a ride on the Gateway Arch Riverboat, a one-hour sightseeing cruise along the Mighty Mississippi.

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum, 1315 Chestnut Street St. Louis, MO 63103, (314) 622-4550:

Just a 15-minute walk from the St. Louis convention center stands the Soldiers Memorial. The structure bears the names of 1,075 servicemen and nurses from St. Louis who died in WWI and honors all Missouri veterans. The museum on site boasts numerous war-related artifacts, including letters, weapons, uniforms and medals.

St. Louis Union Station, 1820 Market Street St. Louis, MO 63103, (314) 421-6655:

The last train left St. Louis Union Station in 1978, but visitors can still visit the historic train station, once deemed the “grandest station in the nation.” Today, the building is listed on the National Historic Landmark registry and features impressive architectural features, as well as shopping opportunities.

For more information about things to do in St. Louis, visit explorestlouis.com or call 1-800-916-0092. To learn more details about VFW’s convention, visit <http://www.vfw.org/115/convention/>

2014 Department Hotel Assignments

1 RENAISSANCE GRAND 800 Washington Ave., (314) 621-9600

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Europe | Missouri |
| Florida | Nebraska |
| Illinois | Nevada |
| Indiana | Ohio |
| Iowa | Pennsylvania |
| Kansas | Rhode Island |
| Michigan | South Dakota |
| Minnesota | Wisconsin |

2 HYATT REGENCY **ST. LOUIS AT THE ARCH** 315 Chestnut St., (314) 655-1234

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Alabama | Massachusetts |
| Alaska | Mississippi |
| Arkansas | New Jersey |
| Connecticut | Oklahoma |
| Georgia | South Carolina |
| Kentucky | Virginia |
| Louisiana | West Virginia |

3 HILTON ST. LOUIS AT THE BALLPARK 1 S. Broadway, (314) 421-1776

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Arizona | New Hampshire |
| California | New Mexico |
| Colorado | New York |
| District of Columbia | North Dakota |
| Delaware | Oregon |
| Hawaii | Pacific Areas |
| Idaho | Utah |
| Maine | Washington |
| Maryland | Wyoming |
| Montana | Vermont |

4 EMBASSY SUITES 610 N. 7th St., (314) 269-5900

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| North Carolina | Texas |
| Tennessee | |

Post Raises \$5,000 for Fisher House

PAST POST 10262 COMMANDER John Schultz, left, and VFW Department Service Officer Dave Goeldner, right, present Kim Mickalowski of the Milwaukee Fisher House Foundation with a \$5,000 check last fall. The donation was the result of a Post-sponsored golf tournament. The money will be used to help build a Fisher House at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee. Groundbreaking for the home home will be later this summer. Fisher House provides a place for military and veterans families to stay while their loved ones are being treated at VA or military hospitals.



MAY | JUNE 2014

CHECKPOINT

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PAID
VFW

Posts with the Most

VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS OR MORE AS OF APRIL 14, 2014

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members
1	27	Wiesbaden, Germany.....	2,831
2	1114	Evansville, IN.....	2,697
3	1503	Dale City, VA.....	2,463
4	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ.....	1,986
5	8862	Vicenza, Italy.....	1,805
6	392	Virginia Beach, VA.....	1,755
7	76	San Antonio, TX.....	1,702
8	9785	Eagle River, AK.....	1,659
9	2485	Angeles City, Philippines.....	1,646
10	4372	Odessa, TX.....	1,615

11	63	Boise, ID.....	1,572
12	6506	Rosedale, MD.....	1,554
13	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany.....	1,512
14	4647	North Highlands, CA.....	1,481
15	628	Sioux Falls, SD.....	1,459
16	6873	Abilene, TX.....	1,459
17	9342	Ansbach, Germany.....	1,457
18	10047	North Las Vegas, NV.....	1,333
19	1146	St Clair Shores, MI.....	1,319
20	7234	Ocean View, DE.....	1,295
21	3944	Overland-St. Ann, MO.....	1,266
22	4809	Norfolk, VA.....	1,259
23	972	Terre Haute, IN.....	1,257
24	10097	Fort Myers Beach, FL.....	1,243
25	8951	West York, PA.....	1,213
26	2503	Omaha, NE.....	1,209
27	549	Tucson, AZ.....	1,190
28	56	Leavenworth, KS.....	1,176
29	2111	Chula Vista, CA.....	1,175
30	1152	Kokomo, IN.....	1,169
31	7968	Apache Junction, AZ.....	1,165
32	1326	Bismarck, ND.....	1,161
32	10216	Songtan-Si, Korea.....	1,161
34	1308	Alton, IL.....	1,150
35	7686	Alamogordo, NM.....	1,134
36	1512	Lemon Grove, CA.....	1,127
36	1273	Rapid City, SD.....	1,127
38	969	Tacoma, WA.....	1,124
39	1599	Chambersburg, PA.....	1,082
40	4709	Conroe, TX.....	1,070
41	7330	Oakville, CT.....	1,051
42	10436	Kitzingen, Germany.....	1,049
43	2866	Saint Charles, MO.....	1,048
43	1170	Middletown, KY.....	1,048
45	788	Cedar Rapids, IA.....	1,047
46	10420	Murrells Inlet, SC.....	1,008

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Pennsylvania Memorial Day Parade is a 'Boots on the Ground' Affair

POST 6773'S COLOR GUARD MARCHES through its hometown of Union City, Pa., during a Memorial Day parade last year. The Post lined the parade route with some 300 combat boots featuring the photos of deceased veterans from the area.

The 3½-mile-long parade, led by Post Commander Todd Van Tassell, ended at the local cemetery with a ceremony honoring Gold Star mothers. It included rifle volleys, a rendition of Taps and a prayer by the Post chaplain.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA GRACE PHOTOGRAPHY