

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Pennsylvania  
Program Booklet  
2023-2024

Commander David W. “Spike” Gyger



Encourage – Expand - Educate



## Table of Contents

VFW Arthritis Program	1
VFW Barger Scholarship	3
VFW Teener Baseball Program	5
VFW Buddy Poppy Program	7
VFW ByLaws / Resolutions	17
VFW Children’s Coloring Contest	23
VFW Communications Contest	27
VFW Community Service Program	33
VFW Diabetes Program	39
VFW Employer of the Year Award	41
VFW Healthcare Award	43
VFW Homeless Veterans Program	45
VFW JROTC Program	47
VFW Legislative Program – National	51
VFW Legislative Program – PA	53
VFW Member of the Year Award	55
VFW National Home Program	59
VFW Patriot’s Pen Scholarship	61
VFW POW / MIA Program	65
VFW Riders Group Program	67
VFW Safety Awards	69
Firefighter	71
EMT	73
John Radko Law Enforcement	75
911 Dispatch	77
VFW Scouting Scholarship	79
VFW Smart-Maher Teacher Award	83
VFW Student Veterans Program	87
Veterans Court Program	89
VMS (Veteran and Military Service)	95
VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship	99
VFW Women Veterans Conference / Expo	105

All documents are available at  
[www.vfwpa.org](http://www.vfwpa.org) under the “Programs” tab

## Program Chairpersons

Arthritis	Larry Hawthorne	<a href="mailto:larry.hawthorne@att.net">larry.hawthorne@att.net</a>	724-699-2521
Barger Scholarship	Dwight Fuhrman	<a href="mailto:dmfuhrman@comcast.net">dmfuhrman@comcast.net</a>	717-578-3151
Buddy Poppy	Robert Marshall	<a href="mailto:robert192@verizon.net">robert192@verizon.net</a>	717-839-9205
ByLaws	Glenn R. Umberger	<a href="mailto:Glenn.umberger@gmail.com">Glenn.umberger@gmail.com</a>	610-517-3455
Children's Coloring Contest	Glenn Owen	<a href="mailto:buck012@frontiernet.net">buck012@frontiernet.net</a>	814-812-1970
Communications Contest	Dwayne MacKenzie	<a href="mailto:ephrtavfw@outlook.com">ephrtavfw@outlook.com</a>	717-738-2823
Community Service	Jodie Hartle	<a href="mailto:commsvc034@gmail.com">commsvc034@gmail.com</a>	814-229-8320
Diabetes	Larry Hawthorne	<a href="mailto:larry.hawthorne@att.net">larry.hawthorne@att.net</a>	724-699-2521
Employer of the Year	David Gyger	<a href="mailto:djc57@verizon.net">djc57@verizon.net</a>	717-991-1473
Healthcare Award	Ruth Fairchild	<a href="mailto:raf4ever@aol.com">raf4ever@aol.com</a>	7245-544-4745
Homeless Veterans	Bill Meiser David Gyger	<a href="mailto:wtmeiser@gmail.com">wtmeiser@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:djc57@verizon.net">djc57@verizon.net</a>	717-443-0535 717-991-1473
JROTC	David Gyger	<a href="mailto:djc57@verizon.net">djc57@verizon.net</a>	717-991-1473
Legislative – National	Jim Brown	<a href="mailto:vfwjimbrown@gmail.com">vfwjimbrown@gmail.com</a>	814-758-6087
Legislative – PA	Charles Jackson	<a href="mailto:chuckjackson21@gmail.com">chuckjackson21@gmail.com</a>	484-707-9757
Member of the Year	David Gyger	<a href="mailto:djc57@verizon.net">djc57@verizon.net</a>	717-991-1473
National Home	Ron Peters	<a href="mailto:acavrp@hotmail.com">acavrp@hotmail.com</a>	814-596-1698
Patriot's Pen	Bill Lamond	<a href="mailto:ta30chvev@gmail.com">ta30chvev@gmail.com</a>	570-241-5875
POW / MIA	Dusten Zimmerman	<a href="mailto:d.zimmerman15@outlook.com">d.zimmerman15@outlook.com</a>	814-435-6739
Safety Awards	Jim Lewis	<a href="mailto:jimandlinda@zoominternet.net">jimandlinda@zoominternet.net</a>	724-988-9181
Scouting	Frank McGovern	<a href="mailto:frankmccgovern@msn.com">frankmccgovern@msn.com</a>	610-742-4220
Smart-Maher Teacher	Glenn Owen	<a href="mailto:buck012@frontiernet.net">buck012@frontiernet.net</a>	814-812-1970
Student Veterans	Jesse Olson	<a href="mailto:vfw.pa.svw@gmail.com">vfw.pa.svw@gmail.com</a>	706-577-7293
Veterans Court	Jeff Puckett	<a href="mailto:jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com">jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com</a>	717-877-5702
VMS (Veteran and Military Service)	Rick Bower	<a href="mailto:RBower0007@gmail.com">RBower0007@gmail.com</a>	717-440-2635
VFW Riders Group	Larry Bills Brian Armstrong	<a href="mailto:LBills70@yahoo.com">LBills70@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:Barms13@gmail.com">Barms13@gmail.com</a>	717-824-1614 412-901-9610
Voice of Democracy	Thomas Hanzes	<a href="mailto:thomashanzes@yahoo.com">thomashanzes@yahoo.com</a>	724- 815-9164
Women Veterans	Amy MacKenzie	<a href="mailto:quartermaster@ephrtavfw.org">quartermaster@ephrtavfw.org</a>	717-575-3982





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Arthritis Program**  
**2023 - 2024**

**Contest Rules:**

It's time for the annual Arthritis contest. Last year was very poor and nothing to brag about. But I know as a department we can always improve.

The program is very simple. For every donation of \$25.00 by a Post, Auxiliary, or District, an entry ticket will be put in for a chance to win a lifetime membership.

There will be two (2) drawings at the next state convention.

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:**

Larry Hawthorne  
Cell: 724-699-2521  
Email: [larry.hawthorne@att.net](mailto:larry.hawthorne@att.net)





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Jack Barger Sr. Memorial Nursing Scholarship Program  
2023 – 2024**



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 Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble.

Candidates for this award will be solicited through the Pennsylvania Nursing Association (PNA) and its contacts with nursing schools in Pennsylvania. Chairpersons and deans of nursing schools will be asked to submit names of worthy candidates. The recipient(s) will be chosen by means of a lottery conducted by the Pennsylvania Nursing Association.

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 buying advertisements in the program book we will be able to increase the donation for the golf scramble to over \$10,000.00 each year. All monies for advertisements in the Golf Scramble Program Book and any monetary donations will go directly to the scholarship fund. Remember that none of this money supports the golfers participating in the scramble; however, they do support the scholarship program.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Barger Nursing Scholarship Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, August 11, 2023 at the Bridges Golf Course 6729 York Road Abbottstown PA 17301 with registration at 7:00am and the shotgun start at 8:00am. This scramble will be followed by a luncheon at East Berlin VFW Post 8896.

Yours in Comradeship,

Dwight Fuhrman  
Barger Scholarship State Chairman





Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
VFW Teener Baseball Program  
2023 – 2024



## VFW Teener Baseball Needs Your Help!

We are looking for donations from Posts throughout PA towards  
State VFW Baseball Tournaments

The State Tournament is held for 13–14-year-olds  
and for 15–16-year-olds.

All donations go towards trophies, umpires and food for every team coming to the  
tournaments.

(8 teams for 4 days for each tournament)

Last year's donations had a huge impact on our tournaments.  
We are hoping to make this year a success also.

Donations can be sent to the VFW State Headquarters.

Thank you for all your help.

All donations can be mailed to  
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109  
Attention: Quartermaster

**ALL FUNDS RECEIVED FOR VFW TEENER BASEBALL GO TO VFW TEENER  
BASEBALL.**





**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Pennsylvania  
Buddy Poppy Program Contest  
2023 - 2024**

1. 100 % Post and Auxiliary participation.
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. Increase purchases and participation of Posts and Auxiliaries in Buddy Poppy Program.

**DEPARTMENT CONTESTS FOR 2023 - 2024**

1. District Chairmen who attain 100% Post participation with three (3) poppies per member, by December 31, 2023 (order at Dept.) 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, January 19 – 21, 2024.**
2. District Chairmen who attain 100% Post participation and exceeding last year's purchases by 25% before **April 30, 2024** will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
3. The first three (3) District Chairmen to have purchases of/or exceeding five (3) Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2024** will receive a \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate for the District.
4. All Posts participating in the Buddy Poppy Program will receive a Certificate of Participation. **These certificates will be given out at the State Convention.**
5. Posts exceeding five (5) Buddy Poppies per member in purchases will receive a Buddy Poppy Pin for the Post Chairman. **These Buddy Poppy Pins will be given out at the State Convention.**
6. The top Post from each division purchasing the most Buddy Poppies per member by **April 30, 2024** will receive a Buddy Poppy Award Plaque and \$75.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate.
7. If the Department meets the 2023-2024 "**One Million Poppy Club**" requirements by **April 30, 2022**, each District Chairman will receive a special Commanders Choice Award and every Post will receive a specially designed certificate.
8. The District that achieves 100% by December 31, 2023 will receive a \$100.00 VFW store Gift Certificate for the District.

**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.**

**ALL POSTS MUST ADHERE TO POPPIES PURCHASED AT STANDARDS SET BY DEPARTMENT.**

**All Poppy Displays from the Post will be judged in all categories at their District Convention.**

All Posts will bring their poppies display to their perspective District Convention to be judged in all three (3) categories.

All 1<sup>st</sup> place District winners in each category will advance to the Department Judging. All of the 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.

**There will be three (3) Categories as listed in the rules (prior page)**

**Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign.**

**Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays**

**Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies.**

At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

- ▶ 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.

**DEPARTMENT DISPLAY CONTEST RULES**

**A Buddy Poppy Display Contest will be held at the 2023 - 2024 Department Convention.**

1. National Convention Buddy Poppy Display guidelines will be adhered to for the Department Contest (see attached two (2) pages).
2. The display area will be announced.
3. The Post or Auxiliary must have purchased Poppies during the current year to be eligible to enter the contest (prior years' purchases may be used).
4. All displays must have an official display entry form filled out completely. Entry forms will be provided to entries at the Department Convention or by contacting the Department Chairman prior to Convention.
5. All displays must have been assigned a category by the sponsoring Post or Auxiliary. Displays will not be judged if not categorized.



6. The judging will be completed in a closed forum.
7. There will be five (5) judges, two each selected by the VFW and Auxiliary Department Chairman. The Chairperson will select the fifth judge.
8. Judging will take place on Friday after the Patriotic Rally.
9. Contest winners will be announced on Saturday prior to the nomination of officers.
10. **The Department will not transport any displays to or from any convention.**
11. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category.

**1<sup>st</sup> place winner will receive a plaque and \$100.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> place winner will receive a \$75.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> place winner will receive a \$50.00 VFW Store Gift Certificate**

12. All displays **MUST** be set up prior to the opening of the VFW Friday morning business session.
13. Displays placing 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Department Contest are eligible to advance to the National Contest. The Post or the VFW Auxiliary **must** notify the Department Adjutant in writing by June 30, 2024 if they are attending.

### **NATIONAL CONTEST RULES FOR 2023 - 2024**

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.

### **If you have any questions, please contact:**

Robert Marshall  
4296 Old Union Deposit Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17111  
Cell: 717-839-9205  
Email: [robert192@verizon.net](mailto:robert192@verizon.net)



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Buddy Poppy Display Form  
2023 - 2024**

Theme Explanation:

---

**Fill out completely (print), separate and place under your display.**

Number of Poppies used: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of Display: \_\_\_\_\_

Post or Auxiliary - Name and Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_





**Winner Transmittal Sheet**

**POST :** \_\_\_\_\_ **or 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 Contest 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Contest 1 \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Contest 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 Contest 2 \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Contest 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Contest 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 Contest 3 \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Contest 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Contest 3 \_\_\_\_\_



**EFFECTIVE 7/1/23 NATIONAL VFW INCREASED THE COST OF  
BUDDY POPPIES**

**PLEASE USE THIS NEW FORM WHEN ORDERING BUDDY POPPIES – REV. 7/1/2023**

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**

<b><u>QUANTITY REQUESTED</u></b>	<b><u>MERCHANDISE</u></b>	<b><u>QUANTITY COST</u></b>
	BUDDY POPPIES	<b>100 @ 30.00</b> Increased 7/1/23
	BUDDY POPPIES	<b>500 @ \$150.00</b> Increased 7/1/23
	BUDDY POPPIES	<b>1000 @ \$300.00</b> Increased 7/1/23
	BANKS	10 @ \$50.00 Increased 9/1/22
	VOLUNTEER BUTTONS	25 @ \$15.00
	POPPY BOARDS	50 @ \$25.00 Increased 9/1/22

**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  
2023 – 2024**

**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:**

**PSC Glenn R. Umberger Jr**

**Cell: 610-517-3455**

**Email: [glenn.umberger@gmail.com](mailto:glenn.umberger@gmail.com)**



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Amendments and Resolutions  
2023 – 2024**

**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 (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 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 acitizen 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 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 (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 acitizen 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 Districtor 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 five (5) 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



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars and VFW Auxiliary  
Coloring Contest – Grades 2 -5  
2023 - 2024**

Info: Department Commander David W Gyger  
Department President Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge  
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers  
District Chairman and Auxiliary Chairman  
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Glenn Owen - Citizenship Education Awards Chairmen

Subject: 2023-2024 Coloring Contest

Theme: Statue of Liberty

Fellow Comrades and Auxiliary Members:

Welcome to another exciting year for the state coloring contest for grades 2-5.

There will be one winner per grade and the winners will receive a \$50.00 check and a certificate.

Schools will send their entries to a local post, not the state chairman.

Posts and Districts will set their own deadlines and the District will submit their winners for the four grades to State Chairman by 8 March 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Glenn Owen  
8563 Rt 467  
Leraysville PA 18829  
[buck012@frontiernet.net](mailto:buck012@frontiernet.net)  
570-744-2028









**Name of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Post:** \_\_\_\_\_

**District:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
PA Dept. Communication Contest for Post & District Newsletters & Websites  
2023 – 2024**

**Submissions are now being accepted for the VFW Pennsylvania Department Communications Contests—the Newsletter Contest and the Website Contest. The deadline for entering both contests is January 31, 2024.**

**Newsletter Contest**

Does your Post or District have a newsletter that deserves recognition for communicating important VFW news and information, promoting growth and participation in programs? If so, consider entering your publication in the Department’s Contest.

The Pennsylvania State VFW Contest is separate from the National VFW Contest, which uses a different entry form and deadline. Posts and Districts should send entries for the National-level Contest directly to National Headquarters; National entries do not come through the Pennsylvania State Headquarters. For more information on the National Publications Contest, watch [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org). Posts are free to enter their newsletter regardless of whether they win a Pennsylvania Department-level newsletter award.

Each issue of your Post/District publication should confirm why your VFW Post is an important organization for members and their communities.

Entries will be judged on the breadth of information presented, layout including use of photos/artwork, grammar, spelling, accuracy, easy to read design format and the overall professionalism of the newsletter.

**Note:** Entry tip: strong newsletters provide contact info for leadership, leadership messages, information about VFW events and volunteer opportunities, veterans benefit information, patriotic information, a listing of the VFW’s mission and news about Post support of veterans, military troops, youth, and local communities. Use a consistent layout, photos/graphics, error free writing, active voice, and interesting content.

**Use the entry form for all Department Communication Contest entries.  
Send only one copy of your newsletter published between November - December 2023 and January 31, 2024.**

## **Website Contest**

This contest features categories for Post and District websites. Websites will be evaluated on easy navigation, quick load time, overall content, information of value to veterans from all service eras, important links to online resources, and creative design (use of images/graphics and design to attract users). Make sure your content is current. **Use the entry form for all Department Communication Contest entries.**

Submit your entries via email or regular mail before midnight January 31, 2024 to Chairperson Dwayne MacKenzie at [ephrtavfw@outlook.com](mailto:ephrtavfw@outlook.com), using a subject line reading **“PA VFW Website Contest.”**

The body of the message should contain Post name, town and number; website internet URL address; Post mailing address and phone number, email address of the person submitting the entry, a statement about who designed and maintains the website, webmaster’s name and contact information including email address and phone, and any supportive comments.

For Department research only and not to be factored into the judging: Please note if the website was designed by a Post member or a paid company (if fee paid to a web development company, please note the company name and budget for the site creation), and list if the site is housed on a server owned by the Post or through a web development company. We can use this information to guide other Posts that contact HQ for guidance on creating a website.

**The National organization does not have a VFW website contest.**



**Department of Pennsylvania**  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**Publication Contest Entry Form**  
**2023 - 2024**

All entries from Posts/Districts must be sent directly to the Department Communications Chairman (Post/District Newsletters & Websites) and must be accompanied with this form. Please be sure to check the box for the appropriate publication frequency of your newsletter, and the box for how the newsletter is distributed.

The deadline to send your entry to the Department Chairman is **January 31, 2024.**

District/Post Adjutants: Please include a copy of this form with each winning entry.

- District Entry:
- Post Entry:

Name of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor's address (street): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor's Phone number and email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Publication Frequency:**

- Published 1-4 times a year
- Published 5 or more times a year

**Distribution Method:**

- Mailed to full membership
- Mailed to full membership and emailed
- Emailed only
- Other (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Any questions, please contact the Department Communications Chairman:**

**Dwayne "Mack" MacKenzie**

**311 Jeff Avenue**

**Ephrata, PA 17522**

**Home: 717-738-2823**

**Email: [ephratavf@outlook.com](mailto:ephratavf@outlook.com)**



## **National Annual Publication Contest 2023 – 2024**

### **VFW Announces Annual Publications Contest Submissions must be mailed by April 1, 2024.**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is now accepting submissions for its 2023 National Publications Contest. VFW publications published up to four times annually, or five or more times annually, will be judged in four categories.

#### **The categories are:**

##### **Department-level publications:**

- Newspaper/Newsletter Defined as being printed on newspaper stock.

Best Feature Story All publications judged together in this category and submitted separately. The story must be a published article of at least 300 words. It can be originally written by your newspaper/magazine staff or by a freelance writer or be reprinted from a newspaper within your state. Feature articles published in online/electronic newsletters, newspapers or magazines also are eligible, but must be printed in color and submitted via USPS, not email.

- Magazine Defined by physical size and paper stock or designed for online distribution as a PDF. Online/electronic magazines must be printed in color and submitted via USPS, not email.

##### **District/Post-level publications:**

- Overall Design and Content Each category will be awarded three places: a grand award (first overall), silver (second overall) and bronze (third overall). Grand prize winners will receive a plaque, and the silver and bronze awards will take the form of a certificate suitable for framing.

The VFW Publication Department's awards system conforms to that of professional societies within the association publishing industry: National Mature Media Awards, Association Trends, Society of National Association Publications, Society of Professional Journalists and Communications Concepts. In other words, the same types of awards for which VFW magazine competes.

All entries submitted must have been published sometime between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2023.

Examples of eligible subjects for the Best Feature submissions include operations of state VA departments, National Guard/Reserve unit deployments overseas, troop-support activities, Department VFW programs, dedication of state memorials and state or local commemorative events for the 50th anniversary of Vietnam. **Editorials or opinion articles WILL NOT be considered this year.** Articles written by VFW magazine staff and reprinted in District, Post or Department publications **will not** be considered. Only one issue per publication will be reviewed by judges. **DO NOT** send multiple editions, as judges will not review all of them.

**All entries should be sent directly to the VFW National Headquarters.** Similar to last year, the competition will be open to any submission, not just the winning submissions from the **Department level.** This is to remove any bias at all levels. One copy of each submission should be postmarked by April 1, 2023

**Mail to: Publications Contest VFW Magazine**

406 W. 34th Street  
Suite 523  
Kansas City, MO 64111

**Contact for any questions:**

Ismael Rodriguez Jr.  
Email: [irodriguez@vfw.org](mailto:irodriguez@vfw.org)

All issues and articles published between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2023, qualify.





**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Pennsylvania  
Community Service Contest (CSR)**

**CONTEST #1 - START DATE: July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024**

THERE WILL BE FOUR (4) DIVISIONS

DIVISION 1 - POSTS WITH MEMBERSHIP OVER 551

DIVISION 2 - POSTS WITH MEMBERSHIP OF 351 TO 550

DIVISION 3 - POSTS WITH MEMBERSHIP OF 151 TO 350

DIVISION 4 - POSTS WITH MEMBERSHIP UNDER 150

**DO NOT TURN IN MULTIPLE MONTHLY REPORTS**

**QUALIFYING POSTS MUST TURN IN A REPORT EVERY MONTH WITH ENTRIES IN ALL (4)  
CATEGORIES:**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE, AMERICANISM, SAFETY, AND YOUTH**

The top three (3) VFW Posts in each division to properly have their reports in by the deadline date of April 30, 2024, with the most cumulative total of dollars and hours for all categories will be awarded a gift certificate for the VFW Store in the amount of \$100.00.

**CONTEST ENDS ON APRIL 30, 2024**

**CONTEST #2** The **FIRST TEN (10)** District VFW Chairmen who have their District reported at 100% will receive a Special Gift from State Commander David W. "Spike" Gyger at the Department of PA VFW Convention in June 2024.

**All-State Criteria**

A Post Community Service Report must be on file with the department chairman as such:

At least two reports during the period of 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023; two reports for the period of 1 January 2024 to 30 April 2024. Posts will have until the seventh day of the following month to submit a CSR. All reports must be filed on the current service year CSR form.

**\*The Community Service Book has been discontinued.**

**If you have any questions, please contact me by one of the following:**

Jodie Hartle

8 Maronee Street

Clarion, PA 16201

Phone: 814-229-8320

Email: [commsvc034@gmail.com](mailto:commsvc034@gmail.com)





## COMMUNITY SERVICE BEST PRACTICES

How a VFW Post interacts with its community determines the relevancy of the VFW. Someone once said, “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” The VFW and its Auxiliary’s ability to impact veterans, youth, political issues, patriotism, civic pride, volunteerism and almost anything you can name, is directly dependent upon our Posts being recognized as caring and involved participants in their communities.

It is our goal that this guide will provide ideas to aid Posts as they develop and expand the kind of reputation that will benefit their community and themselves. The impact on the community is immeasurable. The benefit to the Post is new members, more effective fundraising, greater participation in events and tremendous goodwill. The Post is, for most Americans, the only thing they know about the VFW. It’s up to us to make sure our communities have a favorable opinion of our great organization and our veterans.

### **Definition of Community Service – The National Community**

Service Trust Act defines community service: “encompasses any human act serving the common good; in the interest of the community.” Community service is further defined as “a service that is performed for the benefit of the public or its institutions.” Since 1899, community service has been a cornerstone of the VFW and reporting the millions of hours our members spend each year is important. It not only helps us ensure proper recognition for our members, but it helps showcase to the public our hard work and dedication.

**Reporting** – For the purposes of volunteer recognition, VFW community service hours must be performed by and as a representative of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As it is the intent of VFW community service to impact a broad spectrum of the local community, the work must also be performed for an organization outside of the VFW and its Auxiliary and must be verified by an authorized representative of that organization. In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary should not be considered as community service. This kind of effort could be maintenance, upkeep, or beautification of the Post home, cooking or serving a meal for a Post fund raiser or working on bingo night. Please keep in mind that efforts that are part of the normal requirements of a Post or Auxiliary would not be considered community service. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, flying the American flag or the POW flag, conducting flag retirement programs, placing flags on graves, building memorials, hosting bingo, Post dinners, “Buddy”® Poppy drives, or anything that only benefits the Post. A particularly controversial area in VFW community service is service to one’s church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons: They are not performed for the community at large; and they are part of an individual’s service to their faith and not to the VFW.

**The [national] community service year is July 1 - June 30 annually.** Events should be reported 365 days a year and not weekly, monthly, or quarterly. This will prevent forgetting the specific details of what events happened. All events should be reported online through VFW Department (state) online reporting websites or through the VFW Programs Dashboard Tool for those Departments who do not have an online solution. Lastly, do not forget that Posts can – and are highly encouraged – to report their Auxiliary community service events also. However, this is not mandatory because the Auxiliary has their own community service report which will only be submitted at the Post level.

**Value of a Volunteer Hour** – Volunteers in the United States hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities, and provide their expertise. No matter what kind of volunteer work they do, they contribute in invaluable ways. According to its Value of Volunteer Time report, Independent Sector, together with the Do-Good Institute, announced in April 2022, that the latest value of a volunteer hour is estimated to be \$29.95, which is a 4.9% increase from 2020 to 2021.

**Value of a Mile** – You may already be familiar with the standard mileage rate for business. Every year the IRS issues standard mileage rates for business, medical and moving purposes, and charity. The rate for mileage in service or charitable organizations remains the same at \$0.14 per mile.

**Total Impact** – When figuring the total impact of your community service event, you must calculate the money spent on hosting and organizing the event, plus total hours all participating volunteers spent executing the event, plus the mileage for all volunteers who participated. This equals the total impact for the event, and when added up throughout the year can provide the Post’s annual community service total impact.

**\$ + Hours + Mileage = Total Impact**

**Ways to Support Your Community** – In many cases, the brainstorming process of planning community service can be the most difficult. We’ve compiled a list of both good and non-qualifying events to help you plan the perfect community event.

### **Examples of Good Community Service**

Assisting of veterans within the community:

- Scholarships to youth
- Sponsoring of youth teams
- VA hospital work on behalf of the VFW
- Blood drives
- Legislative town halls
- Care packages for troops, homeless etc.
- Register to Vote campaigns.
- Food Bank support
- Building of ramps for disabled veterans
- Hosting job fairs
- Visiting VA Homes & nursing facilities
- Community Clean Up activities
- Natural Disaster Relief support
- Clothing Drives
- Donations to civic organizations within the community that align with our values

## Examples of Non-Qualified Community Service Events

- Flying the US Flag
- Flying the POW Flag
- Post dinners
- Bingo
- Building memorials
- Paid VFW Service Officer work
- Personal efforts of a member volunteering at a church or other non-profit organizations
- Buddy Poppy Drives
- Membership Drives
- Anything that directly benefits the post
- Reciting the pledge of allegiance at a post meeting
- Charging, renting or loaning the Post hall to their Auxiliary or Cootie Pup -Tent

**Please note: These lists are not all inclusive but rather a frame of reference of what is good to host and report versus what events should not be reported.**





DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
 VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
 Programs Reporting Form



July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 (Reporting)  
 July 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 (For Awards)

Reporting Month \_\_\_\_\_  
 POST \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

1. ORGANIZED AND ASSISTED

IN A BLOOD DRIVE HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

2. ADOPT A HIGHWAY HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

3. OTHER COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECTS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: \_\_\_\_\_

B. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

1. ASSISTED OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

IN THE COMMUNITY HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

2. ASSISTANCE TO VA OR HOSPITAL HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: \_\_\_\_\_

C. AID TO OTHERS:

1. SENIOR CITIZENS/SPECIAL NEEDS

INDIVIDUALS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

2. OTHERS AID TOO OTHER PROJECTS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: \_\_\_\_\_

D. SCHOOL, CHURCH, OTHER ASSISTANCE:

1. VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOL/CHURCH HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

2. SPEAKER IN SCHOOL/CHURCH HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

3. SPEAKER AT OTHER EVENTS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL HOURS/MONEY/MILES  
 FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

ANY COMMENTS OR ADDITIONAL EXPLANATIONS SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM AND  
 MAIL TO THE VFW STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED ON THE  
 PAGE 2 OF THIS FORM.

**E. AMERICANISM - PROJECTS COMPLETED:**

- 1. HONOR GUARD HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. COLOR GUARD HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. CONDUCTED A GET OUT TO VOTE PROGRAM HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. VETERANS DAY PROGRAM HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. PEARL HARBOR DAY PROGRAM HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. LOYALTY DAY PROGRAM HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. VFW PROGRAMS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_  
(ARTHRITIS/NATIONAL HOME, ETC)
- 9. HELPING VETERANS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. OTHER AMERICANISM PROJECTS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. STILL SERVING (MAY 6) HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL HOURS/MONEY/MILES FOR AMERICANISM PROJECT**

**HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_**

**F. SAFETY THE FOLLOWING NATIONAL SAFETY CATEGORIES COMPLETED:**

- 1. DRUG AWARENESS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. RECREATIONAL SAFETY HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. HOME/FIRE SAFETY HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. ASSISTING POLICE/FIRE DEPT. HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL HOURS/MONEY/MILES FOR SAFETY PROJECT**

**HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_**

**G. YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROJECTS COMPLETED:**

- 1. SPORTS/ATHLETICS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. SCOUTING HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. VOD ESSAY CONTEST HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. PATRIOTS PEN ESSAY CONTEST HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. OTHER YOUTH PROJECTS HOURS SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ \$ SPENT \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL HOURS/MONEY/MILES FOR YOUTH PROJECT**

**HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_**

**PREPARED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_**

**TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT # \_\_\_\_\_ POST # \_\_\_\_\_**

**MAIL OR EMAIL TO:**

**Jodie Hartle**  
Community Service Chairman  
8 Maronee Street  
Clarion, PA 16201  
Phone: 814-229-8320

Email: [commsvc034@gmail.com](mailto:commsvc034@gmail.com)



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Diabetes Program  
2023 - 2024**



This program is in support of anyone who has Diabetes whether they be young or old.

Last year was good with 19 Posts, 3 Auxiliaries and 2 Districts participating. A total of \$32,365.00 was raised. I know we can do better this year. Let's have a better year.

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 check "Diabetes"

**If you should have any questions, please contact:**

Larry Hawthorne  
Cell: 724-699-2521  
Email: [larry.hawthorne@att.net](mailto:larry.hawthorne@att.net)







**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Employer of the Year  
2023 - 2024**

**The Purpose of Award:**

To confer recognition on one employer for outstanding records in the hiring and retention of veterans.

**Procedure:** Nominations from Post and Districts must be sent to Department. Nominations that arrive without supporting information will not be eligible for the national awards.

- Only those nominations that include adequate documentation on the nominee's employment practices concerning veterans will be considered for the Department and National VFW Employer of the Year Awards. The nominator should provide a copy of the company's written policy on employment of veterans if available, a description of how the employer supports veterans' activities in the community, and any other reason why the nominee should be selected to be the Employer of the Year Award winner. **Governmental agencies are not eligible for this award.**

**Award:** The National Winner will receive a plaque to be presented by the National Commander at the Annual National convention and will receive a trip to travel to the convention city to accept the award.

**Judging Criteria:**

1. Identify and describe the employer's programs and or benefits designed to recruit veterans, including innovative business practices used to increase veteran recruitment (10 points)
2. Describe the employer's policies that give a preference to hire veterans, referring veterans, or any other veteran policy (VA veteran sick leave hours). Provide the positive and significant impacts these policies have on the employer's business results. (10 Points)
3. Describe the employer's policies or initiatives that improve the current and future veteran employer's career opportunities. (10 points)
4. Provide the number of veterans employed, the total number of employees, and the percentage of veterans employed during a set time period: January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. (20 points)
5. Describe collaborative efforts with business organizations, educational partners, and community organizations that improve veteran employment opportunities. (10 points)
6. Explain why veterans would choose this employer over other employers. (10 points)
7. Provide documented endorsements, newspaper articles, awards, or letters of support highlighting the nominee's contributions to veteran friendly employment or retention. (10 points)
8. Provide the number of veterans employed with the employer for over one year. (10 points)
9. Provide the number of veterans employed with the employer for five years. (10 points)
10. Nominators: Name, Post Number, Contact information and email.

## **State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 VFW Employer of the Year Award Nomination**

- 1.) 1 March 2024 - Deadline Entry is at midnight at Post level.
- 2.) 15 March 2024 - Post judging completed.
- 3.) 1 April 2024 - District judging completed.
- 4.) 15 April 2024 - District Winner Entry Form and all documents must be at Department Headquarters

4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109, ATTN: David “Spike” Gyger –  
VFW Employer of the Year Chairman.

[djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net)

**Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.**

Department will submit nominee to National VFW no later than 25 April 2024.



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Healthcare Award Program  
2023 – 2024**

Guidelines for Healthcare Awards

1. A narrative of no more than 500 words will be submitted to the posts no later than February 28, 2024.
2. Once a winner is chosen from your post, the narrative will be submitted to the Chairman of Healthcare awards no later than March 15, 2024.
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 2023 – 2024**

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 Chairman no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> to:

Health Awards Chairman  
Ruth A. Fairchild  
845 Arlington Ave  
New Castle, PA 16101  
Email: [raf4ever@aol.com](mailto:raf4ever@aol.com)



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Homeless Veterans Program  
2023 – 2024**

**HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH**

Many veterans, especially those who served in combat zones, leave the military with significant physical and emotional wounds that make transitioning to civilian life difficult. Unfortunately, one of the largest groups of America’s homeless population are veterans. There are too many of our nation’s heroes living on our streets that have special needs and require a helping hand.

The VFW supports homeless veterans in many ways including donations to homeless shelters, support of regional "stand downs," donating clothing and personal hygiene items, fighting for more government resources to reduce the homeless population, and put veterans back to work.

Posts and individuals can send donations to the Department’s Homeless Veterans fund in any amount which will be shared with veterans’ and shelters.

***See Homeless Veterans Report Form on the next page.  
The reports are due monthly.***

Pennsylvania VFW Homeless Veterans Chairman  
Bill Meiser  
VFW Post 23 (18)  
1100 Mountain Road  
Dauphin, PA 17018  
717-443-0535  
Email: [wtmeiser@gmail.com](mailto:wtmeiser@gmail.com)

Pennsylvania VFW Homeless Veterans Co-Chairman  
David "Spike" Gyger  
VFW Post 9639 (18)  
111 Cameron Avenue  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
717-991-1473  
Email: [djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net)



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Homeless Veterans Chairman's Monthly Report**

Period Covering: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of events during this period: \_\_\_\_\_

How many Post and Auxiliary members participated? \_\_\_\_\_

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:**

Pennsylvania VFW Homeless Veterans Chairman

Bill Meiser

1100 Mountain Road, Dauphin, PA 17018

Bill Meiser Email: [wtmeiser@gmail.com](mailto:wtmeiser@gmail.com)

David Gyger Email: [djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net)

*Revised – Jun 2023*

**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
JROTC Cadet of the Year Award  
2023 - 2024**

VFW award for special recognition of outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership for Junior ROTC Cadets. This award seeks to recognize a remarkable cadet who will become a leader in their community and serve their country.

**Criteria:**

**Possession of individual characteristics contributing to leadership including:**

- A. Positive attitude toward the JROTC program
- B. Outstanding military bearing and conduct both in and out of uniform
- C. Personal attributes (self-confidence, initiative, flexibility, judgement).
- D. Patriotism (commander or member of color guard, drill team with or without arms, flag protocol instruction team, and actively promote Americanism). Shows devotion to school, community, America. An individual(s) who practices service through repeated acts of support.
- E. Courtesy (dependability, punctuality, human relations, respect, cooperation).
- F. Growth potential (capable of assuming high leadership responsibilities in JROTC Unit with additional training and experience).
- G. Demonstrated leadership potential, military bearing, and scholastic achievement.
  - Attainment of a grade of "B" in JROTC with an overall average of "C" in all subjects for the previous semester. Must not have a failing grade in any subject for that period of time.
  - Must be active in at least one other student co-curricular activity or club: i.e. music, athletics, student government, junior achievement, etc.
  - Must not have been a previous recipient of the award

**Eligibility:**

Any 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student that is currently enrolled as a JROTC Cadet actively engaged in the JROTC program, and one who meets the criteria for the award.

## **State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 for JROTC Cadet of the Year Award**

- 1.) 15 March, 2024 - Student Deadline Entry is at Midnight at Post level.
- 2.) 10 April, 2024 - Post judging completed.
- 3.) 20 April 2024 - District judging completed.
- 4.) 1 May 2024 - District Winner Entry Form and all documents must be at Department Headquarters.

4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109

ATTN: David "Spike" Gyger – JROTC Chairman

djc57@verizon.net

Department will submit nominee to National no later than May 12th.

### **Award From National:**

**National JROTC Cadet of the Year will receive a trip to the National VFW Convention to accept the award. The recipient will receive airfare and lodging for two nights.**





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
JROTC Nomination Form  
2023 - 2024**

Name of the Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's JROTC Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Making the Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Nominating the Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

On a separate sheet, provide a brief description of how the nominee:

- Displays a positive attitude toward the JROTC program
- Displays outstanding military bearing and conduct both in and out of uniform
- Describe their personal attributes (such as self-confidence, initiative, flexibility, judgement).
- Exhibits Patriotism (by serving as commander or member of color guard, drill team with or without arms, flag protocol instruction team, and actively promote Americanism).
- Shows devotion to school, community, America. An individual(s) who practices service through repeated acts of support.
- Exhibits Courtesy (dependability, punctuality, human relations, respect, cooperation).
- Growth potential (capable of assuming high leadership responsibilities in JROTC Unit with additional training and experience).
- Demonstrated leadership potential, military bearing, and scholastic achievement.
- Attach a school transcript that shows attainment of a grade of "B" in JROTC with an overall average of "C" in all subjects for the previous semester. Must not have a failing grade in any subject for that period of time.
- The nominee must be active in at least one other student co-curricular activity or club: i.e., music, athletics, student government, junior achievement, etc. (provide documentation)
- The nominee must not have been a previous recipient of the award.

Post / District winners are due to Commander Gyger at [djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net) by 1 May 2024.







## **Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Overview 2023-2024**

My name is Jim Brown, and along with my Co-Chair Rich Cassey, we are your VFW National Legislative Representatives for the Department of Pennsylvania. We have been appointed by State Commander Gyger to represent ALL veterans and their families, from the State of Pennsylvania, in Washington DC. This is an extreme honor that has been bestowed upon us, and we take fighting for veterans' legislation very seriously!

There is a vast array of legislation we as a National Legislative Team are working on, through the guidance of our VFW DC office. Bills that impact suicide, female veterans' healthcare, and MST (Military Sexual Trauma) are just a few pieces of legislation that we on the VFW National Legislative Team continue to fight for.

Recently, the Honoring Our PACT Act was passed and put into law. This is one of the largest pieces of legislation to ever get passed to benefit our veterans! The PACT Act covers many veterans, from various time frames, that served and/or are still serving in different areas around the world. Pieces of legislation like this only get passed with the help of all of YOU! Please contact an Accredited VFW Service Officer, to see if you qualify for benefits under the PACT Act.

YOU are able to help your fellow Comrades and their Families by signing up for Action Corps (see next page). Action Corp let's YOUR voice be heard. It is a direct link to some of the legislation, we as the VFW National Legislative Team, are working on. Action Corps also gives you a POW/MIA weekly update.

Signing up for Action Corps is important and may be done by anyone who cares about veterans and their families. This includes our Auxiliary members, and any other individuals of voting age who want to advocate for our veterans and their families.

However, responding to Action Alerts is paramount! This is where your voice is heard. Action Alerts are pre-filled messages to YOUR Representatives (based off the address you used when signing up), telling them how YOU and the VFW want them to vote on a particular piece of legislation heading to the floor.

We here in Pennsylvania have over 100,000 VFW & Auxiliary members, and only 17,000 Action Corp Members. Worse yet, we only average around 350 responding to Action Alerts. We, as Pennsylvanians, need to have a stronger response to these Action Alerts, so our Representatives in DC take us seriously!

Rich and I are here to serve you on Capitol Hill. We will do our best, to ensure the veteran legislative fight for benefits continues.

Rich and I are your voice on the Hill, YOU are the amplifier to make our voice be heard!

Yours in Service,

*Jim Brown*

Jim Brown

VFW National Legislative Chair/PA



<https://vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Pennsylvania Legislative Program  
2023 – 2024**

At the State / Department level, we tend to focus on state legislation which is often overlooked from a national's viewpoint – beyond the fact there is competent staff at the national level to manage the federal legislative needs. However, there are four current legislative issues of importance to many in Pennsylvania that I think need urgent resolution through legislation, as the Honor the PACT Act absorbs the majority of the VA's attention.

**1. Federal Legislation Needed:**

- a. **S. 344/HR 1282 (Major Richard Star Act):** A bill to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.
- b. **HR 592:** H.R. 608 which would terminate the Electronic Health Record (EHR) Modernization Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs needs to be stopped dead in its tracks. The VA needs a modern health records management system which can integrate properly with DoD and the private sector if improvement in VA healthcare is wanted. The VA's inability to get a new system off the ground in a timely manner is not a reason to give up. H.R. 592 is meant to address this issue.
- c. **Amendment to Public Law No: 117-168. (Honor our PACT Act):** We have talked to DMVA about the need to press the issue of adding a presumptive condition for melanoma for Vietnam War veterans as occurred for those of the Gulf War era. The result is inertia presently.
- d. **VA Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) restart:** In technical violation of this study commissioned by the Mission Act of 2018, key senators terminated the “base realignment and closure”-like bill in mid-2022. It needs to resume to its logical conclusion so transparent debate can be made on a process now hidden from view. The importance? Pennsylvania is significantly affected by VA plans for the new healthcare system it is developing.

I integrate my efforts at a state level with the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, the State Veterans' Commission, and various advocacy nonprofits, such as the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council. There are many legislative efforts, but four have risen of more immediate importance to veterans and requiring concerted attention at the moment (Funding for our department veterans service officers is now a managed issue and no longer a concern.).

## 2. State Legislation Needed:

- a. **H.B 363/S.B. 126:** Both involve eliminating VA disability income as a consideration when applying for Pennsylvania benefits affected by level of income. However, the bills as constructed fail to account for veterans' pensions and military medical retiree (disability) pay – among those probably most in need of this provision. We are attempting to resolve this.
- b. **Disabled Americans Veterans Transportation line item:** Transportation services to get veterans to their claims and healthcare appointments has finally gotten some attention, but concrete actions are still lacking. One means is improving and replacing the existing but aging fleet of Veterans Transportation Service vehicles primarily provided by the DAV, but telehealth and other providers are also affecting the extent. A meeting with VISN-4 is to be requested to determine what is really needed for a line-item increase to the 2023-2024 budget.
- c. **Gulf Wars and Afghanistan Conflict bonus** (ca 11 September 2001 to 11 September 2022): The time has come to resolve this legislative issue if the benefit derived from it is to have its intended effect. Again, as with the Persian Gulf War bonus, the state government sits and waits on us to complain. It will require a public referendum, a long and slow process. So, we must act now.

Questions, Please Contact:  
Department of PA VFW Legislative Chairman:  
Charles Jackson  
Cell: 484-707-9757  
Email: [chuckjackson21@gmail.com](mailto:chuckjackson21@gmail.com)



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
VFW Member of the Year Nomination  
2023 - 2024**

**Purpose:** This award is to recognize a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has exemplified in their actions and accomplishments, the true spirit of our organization in serving the needs of their post and community, and who has dedicated themselves in a professional manner to addressing the Pillars of our Organization. Department leaders are encouraged to submit to the VFW Programs office a narrative write up on a comrade from their Department who is leading from the front and supporting one or more of the purposes of our Congressional Charter.

**Eligibility:** This award is intended to recognize a member in good standing of the Veterans of Foreign Wars who has been a member a minimum of one full membership year and has received a nomination for their activities during the award year according to the award guidelines. Departments are encouraged to submit their winners from their own contest if they have a current Member of the Year process.

**Award candidates holding any of the following elected or appointed offices during the award year are not eligible. (Specifically- Commander, Quartermasters, Adjutant, Service Officer, or Chaplain)** In addition, Past State Commanders and Past National Council members are ineligible from nomination.

**Type of Recognition:** The award will consist of a National Cap with title of Member of the Year & citation presented at the National Convention by the Commander-in-Chief. The award winner will additionally receive full room and travel for the duration of the National Convention for the award presentation. Each department winner will receive a citation from the Commander-in-Chief.

**Criteria:**

This award recognizes exceptional performance as a member of the VFW. Examples of service that would be considered in judging the nominee include the following:

- Nominee presents themselves in a professional and helpful manner within the organization and within the community.
- Nominee shows an active interest in their Department by attending meetings and showing a willingness to consider leadership roles.
- Nominee participates in activities and events within the Department to help raise awareness of the organization in the community.
- Nominee has shown a willingness to work together with other VFW, Auxiliary, and Riders Members in a spirit of cooperation to accomplish the same goals.

- Nominee volunteers for and participates in activities and events that address the needs of target groups and individuals in the community.
- Nominee has demonstrated actions which contribute to improving the quality of life for those we are intended to serve, whether they are children or adults, and whether they are homeless, hospitalized, handicapped, in need of a job or education.
- Nominee encourages members of the community to support VFW programs and continually encourages others to become members.
- Nominee must have been submitted for #StillServing campaign recognition at <https://todaysvfw.org/>

### **State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 for VFW Member of the Year Nomination**

- 1.) 15 March, 2024 - Nomination Deadline Entry is at midnight at Post level.
- 2.) 10 April, 2024 - Post judging completed.
- 3.) 20 April 2024 - District judging completed.
- 4.) 1 May 2024 - District Winner Entry Form and all documents must be at Department

Headquarters

4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109,

ATTN: David “Spike” Gyger – VFW Member of the Year Chairman.

[djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net)

**Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.**

Department will submit nominee to National VFW no later than 27 April 2024.





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
VFW Member of the Year Nomination Form  
2023 - 2024**

Name of the Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Post #: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_

Position currently held in the Post or District: \_\_\_\_\_

*Award candidates currently holding any of the following elected or appointed offices during the award year are not eligible. (Specifically- Commander, Quartermasters, Adjutant, Service Officer, or Chaplain) In addition, Past State Commanders and Past National Council members are ineligible from nomination.*

Name of Person Nominating the Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Explain how this VFW Comrade has made a positive impact on the VFW.

---

---

---

2. Explain how this VFW Comrade has made a positive impact on the lives of his / her fellow veterans.

---

---

---

3. Explain how this VFW Comrade has made a positive impact in his / her community.

---

---

---

Attach additional pages as needed.

Post / District winners due to Commander Gyger at [djc57@verizon.net](mailto:djc57@verizon.net) by 1 May 2024.





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
VFW National Home Program  
2023 – 2024**

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](mailto:help@vfwnationalhome.org)
- Visit [vfwnationalhome.org/help](http://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  
4200 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 \$50.00 and includes a membership certificate, a wallet card, and a pin.

Visit [vfnationalhome.org/membership](http://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](http://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 Gyger's year.

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

**NOTE: One of Commanders Gyger's requirements for All-State Post is a donation of \$ 75.00 to Department for the VFW National Home.**

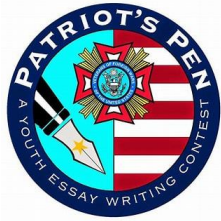
**If you have any questions, or if you need applications**

Please Contact the Department of PA VFW Chairman Ronald Peters

Cell: 814-596-1698

Email: [acavrp@hotmail.com](mailto:acavrp@hotmail.com)





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest  
2023-2024**

**“How are you inspired by America?”**

Info To: Department Commander David W. “Spike” Gyger  
Department President Mary Jean Mastridge  
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers  
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman  
District Patriot’s Pen Chairmen  
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairmen  
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: William D. Lamond III  
State Patriot’s Pen Chairman

Subject: 2023-2024 Patriot’s Pen Patriotic Youth Essay Competition

Theme: **“How are you inspired by 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 “How are you inspired by 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 Chairmen 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](http://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](http://www.vfwpa.org); where you will find Department deadlines and the student entry brochure.

State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 Patriot’s Pen Program are listed below:

- 1.) October 31, 2023 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight
- 2.) November 18, 2023 - Post judging completed
- 3.) December 3, 2023 - District judging completed
- 4.) December 9, 2023 - 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

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

- 5.) December 11, 2023 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
- 6.) January 15, 2024 - Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters
- 7.) January 20, 2024 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet  
at the Double Tree by Hilton – Pittsburgh Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

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 Chairman, the Post must enter the participation stats (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](http://vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard).

The State Auxiliary Chairman is Joan Faddis. If you have any questions or concerns, Joan and I can be contacted as follows:

William D. Lamond III  
3306 Nashotka Road  
Madison Township, PA 1718444  
(570) 241-5875  
Email: [ta30chvev@gmail.com](mailto:ta30chvev@gmail.com)

Joan Faddis  
12 Melissa Lane  
Downingtown PA 19335-1255  
(484) 639-8953  
E-mail: [tee3cubed@aol.com](mailto:tee3cubed@aol.com)

Thank you!

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

*William D. Lamond III*

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



## 2023-2024 Theme

### “How are you inspired by America?”

Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

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 73,000 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 the 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.

#### 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 intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest 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 October 31, 2023. You can submit your essay and entry form by email upon the Post's approval. Entries sent to the VFW National Headquarters directly will be returned.

#### 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 2023-2024 theme is:

**“How are you inspired by America?”**

#### Deadline Information.

To qualify, all entries must be submitted to a sponsoring VFW Post by midnight October 31, 2023.

#### Note:

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

First, visit [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://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](http://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 816.968.1155  
Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)**

# 2023-2024 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.

• In no way may contestants identify themselves within their essay (including, but not limited to, your name, school, city, state, race or national origin.) 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. 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 Veterans 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  
2023 – 2024**

**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](http://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 2023, it will be on Friday, **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. 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:**

Pennsylvania VFW POW/MIA Chairman  
Dusten Zimmerman  
VFW Post 7810 (15)  
144 West Branch Road  
Galeton, PA 16922  
Email: [d.zimmerman15@outlook.com](mailto:d.zimmerman15@outlook.com).



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
VFW Riders Motorcycle Group Program  
2023 – 2024**

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



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:**

Eastern PA - contact: Larry Bills at 717-824-1614 or [LBills70@yahoo.com](mailto:LBills70@yahoo.com)

Western PA – contact: Brian Armstrong at 412-901-9610 or [Barms13@gmail.com](mailto:Barms13@gmail.com)





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Safety Awards Program  
2023 – 2024**

**Public Servant Award Citations for Emergency Medical Technicians, Law Enforcement  
Personnel, Firefighters, and 911 Dispatchers**

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel, 911 dispatchers to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by **December 15**. (*Note: new date*). The Department must select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by February 1.

NOTE: The VFW National Programs Department does not require all documentation items to be mailed to Kansas City, Missouri (from Department to National.) The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the “VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form” which can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the Department upon request –send an e-mail to [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org) or call 816-756-3390, ext. 6287.

**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 individual 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.

**Criteria for these awards** – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- 1) Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- 2) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

### **911 Dispatcher Award Citation:**

Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience in which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation. 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.

### **Documentation required for all Candidates:**

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
- 2) One (1) page resume of the candidate's overall background.
- 3) One (1) page resume of the candidate's background in their field.
- 4) One (1) page listing of the candidate's accomplishment and awards in their field.
- 5) Photograph (preferably a head shot) of the candidate.
- 6) NEW One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available under the VFW website log in to assist in obtaining nominations (but is not a required document.)

Nomination – Post Safety Chairmen should send the above information to their Department Headquarters to arrive not later than January 1. Departments should forward a completed “VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form” for each of their Department winners to arrive no later than February 1 to:

Questions, Please contact the Department of PA VFW Safety Chairman:

Jim Lewis

2177 Mercer Road

Stoneboro, PA 16153

Cell: 724-988-9181

Email: [jimandlinda@zoominternet.net](mailto:jimandlinda@zoominternet.net)



## Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

### **FIREFIGHTER AWARD**

Every community certainly has at least one “**Outstanding Firefighter**” nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety chairman to find a nominee or name a special chairman to submit an “**Outstanding Firefighter**” nominee. The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state chairman so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety chairman. If your district does not have a Safety chairman, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairman, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairman for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state chairman so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety, and security of the nation’s citizens; on a full time, part-time or a volunteer basis.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

**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) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District 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

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE LETTER OF  
ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Please note the date change*





## Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AWARD

Every community certainly has at least one “Emergency Medical Technician” nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety chairman to find a nominee or name a special chairman to submit an “Emergency Medical Technician” nominee. The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send all entries to the District to be forwarded to the state chairman so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts will have a safety chairman. If your district does not have a Safety chairman, then submit all entries to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairman, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairman for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send all entries of the District to the state chairman so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

The emergency medical technician award will be presented so that those brave and honest men and women in the field of emergency service might know that their dedication and goodwill are appreciated.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation’s citizens; on a full time, part-time or a volunteer basis.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

**Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN AWARD**

NAME OF NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PA \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

- (1) Resume of Nominee's Background:
- (2) Resume of Nominee's Background in Emergency Services Work:
- (3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Emergency Services Field:
- (4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Send Completed Forms, Resumes, and Letter to:**  
Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Emergency Medical Technician Award  
4002 Fenton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943  
717-234-7927

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE LETTER OF  
ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Please note the date change*



## Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

### JOHN RADKO AWARD

Every community certainly has at least one “**Outstanding Police Officer**” nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety chairman to find a nominee or name a special chairman to submit an “**Outstanding Police Officer**” nominee. The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state chairman so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety chairman. If your district does not have a Safety chairman, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairman, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairman for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state chairman so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. Unswerving loyalty to, and active performance in, the defense, safety and security of the nation’s citizens; on a full time, part-time or a volunteer basis.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

**Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**JOHN RADKO 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 Law Enforcement Work:
- (3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Law Enforcement Field:
- (4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 1st**

**Submit entries to  
VFW Post 3376  
141 South State Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522**

[ephratavfw@outlook.com](mailto:ephratavfw@outlook.com)

## **911 DISPATCHER AWARD**

Every community certainly has at least one **“Outstanding 911 Dispatcher”** nominee who should be recognized. Each Post Commander is urged to direct his appointed safety chairman to find a nominee or name a special chairman to submit an **“Outstanding 911 Dispatcher”** nominee. The Post Chairman is responsible for coordinating this program and selecting the Post’s most worthy candidate. After the judging is complete at Post level, the post must select their first-place winner and the Post must send **all entries** to the District to be forwarded to the state chairman so that all the Post receives credit for all entries.

All Districts **will** have a safety chairman. If your district does not have a Safety chairman, then submit **all entries** to Department HQ.

If your District has a District Chairman, the Post will then submit all entries to the District Safety Chairman for judging. After the judging is complete at District level, the District must select their first-place winner and the District must send **all entries** of the District to the state chairman so that the Post get the credit for all entries. All District winners and all entries are to be forwarded to Department for state judging.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Recognition by colleagues of their service, whether that service be one of quiet dedication, or one achieving wide publicity, to the best and highest interest of the nation and community.
2. The nominee must demonstrate his or her professional interaction with the caller(s), coworkers, and responders by applying skills such as multitasking, customer service and the operation of the equipment used. Most of all, the nominee must show the due respect to the Telecommunicator position.
3. Dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibility and experience, not only in fields within fire safety but in those fields which safeguard the community, the state, and the nation.

**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 Dispatching Work:

(3) Nominee's Accomplishments in the Telecommunication Field:

(4) Letter of endorsement from Post Commander: (This is a necessity)

Post Commander Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Number: \_\_\_\_\_ District Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Send Completed Forms, Resumes, and Letter to:**

Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars

Dispatcher Award

4002 Fenton Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

717-234-7927

**NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE  
LETTER OF ENDORSEMENT FROM THE VFW POST COMMANDER.**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> OF EACH YEAR**

*Please note the date change*



**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Youth Activity / Scout of the Year Program  
2023 – 2024**

The VFW Scout of the Year Program is open to Scouts who are registered, active members of a Boy or Girl Scout Troop, Venturing Crew, or a Sea Scout Ship who have received the Eagle Scout Award, Girl Scout Gold Award, Venture Summit Award or Sea Scout Quartermaster Award.

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 and 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.

Scouts should download and submit a completed VFW Scouting Scholarship form, 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 can enter through ONE VFW Post only.

Local VFW Posts submit their winning candidates with full entry criteria to their respective VFW Department (state) Chairman by **April 1**.

Ensure that if a District judging is taking place that entries are forwarded to the District first and that enough time is allotted to ensure that the Department still receives the entry by April 1.

From there, the Department Chairman selects a winner and forwards the entry to the VFW National Headquarters by **May 1** for recognition.

Judging in person may not be an option now for some, and there are other options to complete your judging.

Eagle Scout Award\* – One Eagle Scout is presented with the PA VFW Eagle Scout of the Year Award.

For more information please contact VFW State Headquarters at (717) 234-7927.

Pennsylvania VFW Youth Activities/Scouting Chairman  
Frank McGovern  
VFW Post 3460 (7)  
1112 Foss Avenue  
Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
610-742-4220  
Email: [frankmcgovern@msn.com](mailto:frankmcgovern@msn.com)







# 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](http://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 6155, during normal business hours Monday through Friday or emailed to [scouting@vfw.org](mailto: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](http://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 6155, or email [scouting@vfw.org](mailto:scouting@vfw.org)



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



## 2023-2024 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Info to: Department Commander David W. Gyger  
Department President Mary Jean Cuddyre Mastridge  
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers  
District Chairman  
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Glenn Owen  
State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Chairman

Subject: 2023-2024 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 Chairman can access the program guides and entry forms from the National VFW website [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) or Department website [www.vfwpahq.org](http://www.vfwpahq.org): The Department entry deadlines will be posted to Department website:

State Deadlines for 2023-2024 Smart/Maher Teacher Award are:

1. October 31, 2023 – Entry form to Post
2. November 15, 2023 – Entry to District if applicable
3. December 28, 2023 – Post/District winners forward to State Chairman Glenn Owen  
Address: 8563 Rt 467, LeRaysville, PA 18829.

**Do not mail to Department Headquarters**

4. February 1 - State Winners forward to National

Thank you,

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

*Glenn Owen*

Glenn Owen  
State Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Chairman



## Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023

### 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 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](http://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, 2023. 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  
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287  
or [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).*

---

### Local VFW Post Information:

---

Contact

---

Phone

Best time to call

---

Alternative Contact

---

Phone

Best time to call

# 2023-2024 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



**Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023**

## 2023-2024 Official Entry Form Teacher Award Competition *Must Be Completed by All Contestants*

Name: First, M.I., Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level (K-5, 6-8, or 9-12) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

**To Be Completed by the VFW Post**  
*I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in  
our VFW Post Level Teacher Award Competition.*

*Person Nominating Teacher:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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, in each grade level, advances to District, if applicable, then one District winner, in each grade level, advances 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](http://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](http://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 [tbeauchamp@vfw.org](mailto:tbeauchamp@vfw.org).



Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Student Veterans Program  
2023 - 2024

**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**  
**Contact: Jesse Olson, Student Veterans Chairman**  
**706-577-7293**

Email: [vfw.pa.svw@gmail.com](mailto:vfw.pa.svw@gmail.com)







**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**The Veterans Court Program**

**2023 – 2024**



**WHAT IS A VETERAN’S 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 25 counties in Pennsylvania that have a Veterans Court.

## **WHY A VETERAN'S 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 Veteran's 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 VETERAN’S 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 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 18 VFW Districts represent 25 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 8, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22, and 30.



**If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jeff Puckett  
VFW Department Chair of the Veterans Court Program  
Email: [jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffpuckett153@yahoo.com)**





**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Veterans & Military Support Program  
2023 – 2024**

Greetings Teammates, my name is Rick Bower, and I am the new Veterans & Military Support Department Program Chairman. Prior to this appointment I really did not have a good understanding of what the VMS Program entailed. That said, I am sure many of you do not either. 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](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](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 Rick Bower @ [RBower0007@gmail.com](mailto:RBower0007@gmail.com)**

**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			
	26	1234	Crossroads Event	60	\$150.00			

**Details of Event**

Crossroads Event at the PA National Guard Headquarters. Briefed the members that were separating and retiring about the VFW VMS Programs and membership benefits/Visited Post 1234 and discussed VMS Programs and membership. Provided light refreshments.

2	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	4321	Added a Vet		\$1,500			

**Details of Event**

Veteran received help with rent and medical bills, with the help of Department.

Another veteran received help with car payments from post 4321.

3	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	7894	Army ROTC Dining Out	200	\$100.00			

**Details of Event**



Post 7894 attended the Penn (Johnstown) State University Army ROTC (Cyclone Battalion) Dining Out

4	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	5648	Homeless Vets Stand down	60				

Details of Event

Post 5648 conducted a homeless Vets stand down and members slept in two different parks in the city overnight to bring awareness and raise money. The Post raised over \$30K in funds for the homeless.

5	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	2589	Welcome Home	250	\$1,500.00			

Details of Event

Post 2589 held a welcome home BBQ for the families and Airmen of the 123rd AW.

6	District	Post	Event name	# in attendance	\$ Spent			
	26	4563	Veterans Funeral	50	\$100			

Details of Event

Post 4563 rallied the community to attend a veteran's funeral who had no living relatives and provided a wreath.







**Department of Pennsylvania  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
76<sup>th</sup> Annual Voice of Democracy Youth Essay Contest  
2023-2024  
“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”**

Info to: Department Commander David W. “Spike” Gyger  
Department President Mary Jean Mastridge  
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers  
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman  
District Voice of Democracy Chairmen  
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairmen  
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Thomas “Ace” Hanzes  
State Voice of Democracy Chairman

Subject: 2023 - 2024 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition

Theme: “What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

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 Chairmen 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](http://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](http://www.vfwpa.org); where you will find the following Department information: Department deadlines and the student entry brochure, the Department of Pennsylvania Voice of Democracy Teacher of the Year information and nomination form and the Department Perpetual Scholarship information and donation form. For more information on reporting program participation visit, [vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard](http://vfw.org/my-vfw/all-American-dashboard).

State Deadlines for the 2023 - 2024 Voice of Democracy Program are listed below:

- 1.) October 31, 2023 - Student Deadline Entry is at midnight.
- 2.) November 18, 2023 - Post judging completed.
- 3.) December 3, 2023 - District judging completed.
- 4.) December 9, 2023 - 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 Chairman, Thomas “Ace” Hanzes.  
Address: 106 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Greenville, PA 16129.

**DO NOT MAIL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS.**

- 5.) December 11, 2023 - Department judging (Time and location to be announced)
- 6.) January 15, 2024 - Department Winner and Reports submitted to National Headquarters.
- 7.) January 20, 2024 - Annual Voice of Democracy Banquet  
Double Tree by Hilton – Pittsburgh Cranberry, 910 Sheraton Drive, Mars, PA 16046

The 2023 - 2024 State Auxiliary Chairman is Joan Faddis. If you have any questions or concerns, Joan and I can be contacted as follows:

Thomas “Ace” Hanzes  
106 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greenville, PA 16125  
(724) 815-9164  
Email: [thomashanzes@yahoo.com](mailto:thomashanzes@yahoo.com)

Joan Faddis  
12 Melissa Lane  
Downingtown PA 19335-1255  
(484) 639-8953  
E-mail: [tee3cubed@aol.com](mailto:tee3cubed@aol.com)

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 Chairmen, Auxiliary Chairmen, and the Membership 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 Gyger’s requirements for All State Post is a Voice of Democracy entry.

**Department Division 1-6 \$250.00**  
**Department Division 7-11 \$100.00**

Thank you!

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

*Thomas “Ace” Hanzes*

Thomas “Ace” Hanzes  
State Voice of Democracy Chairman



## 2023-2024 Theme

# “What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”

**Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2023**

**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 27,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme is, “**What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?**”

### Why Should I Enter?

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington DC, to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Auxiliary and receive their portion of \$171,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being \$35,000.

### The Rules

#### Who can enter?

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 intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

#### What do I need to enter?

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or - 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. In addition you can submit your emailed entry form, essay, and audio file to the VFW Post upon approval. You must be the sole author of your essay. 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](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org) for special instructions. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership.

### Where Do I Submit My Entry?

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. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One winner for every 15 entries from each Post advances to District and one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post, follow these instructions: First, visit this website [vfw.org/FindaPost](http://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 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, 2023**. It is the responsibility of the student to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

### What Are the Judging Criteria?

#### Originality is worth 30 points:

Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

#### Content is worth 35 points:

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

#### Delivery is worth 35 points:

Speak in a clear and credible manner.

# 2023-2024 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 Voice of Democracy National Finals in Washington, D.C. 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 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:

816.968.1155

Email: [youthscholarships@vfw.org](mailto:youthscholarships@vfw.org)

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Time To Call: \_\_\_\_\_



Twisted X Brands

A Proud Sponsor



**76th Annual Voice of Democracy  
Scholarship Program  
Department Of Pennsylvania  
VFW 2023-2024**

**“What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?”**

Info to: Department Commander David W. “Spike” Gyger  
Department President Mary Jean Mastridge  
Department VFW Officers and Department Auxiliary Officers  
Department Auxiliary Scholarships Chairman  
District Voice of Democracy Chairmen  
District Auxiliary Scholarships Chairmen  
District Commanders and District Presidents  
Post Commanders and Post Auxiliary Presidents

From: Thomas “Ace” Hanzes  
State Voice of Democracy

Subject: Department of Pennsylvania Veterans of Foreign Wars Perpetual Scholarship Fund  
2023 - 2024

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.

Thomas “Ace” Hanzes  
State Voice of Democracy Chairman





**PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORMS**

**2023 - 2024**

**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**





## March is Women Veterans Month

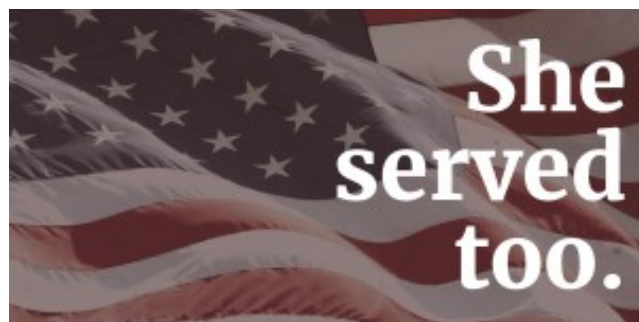
Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA

Is proud to sponsor the

## Women Veterans Expo

March 15-16, 2024

Harrisburg, 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, and informational displays by, for, and about women veterans—highlighting the issues that matter and impact them directly.

Preregistration is required; please see the VFW Dept. of PA Website for forms and the tentative agenda, or contact Amy MacKenzie (info below)

Final Registration 01/31/2024(*or until sold out*)

**www.vfwpa.org** (under the “resources” tab, then “Women Veterans”)



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

**Location:** Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111

2024 will offer a new format, consisting of many resource and informational vendors, along with women owned businesses showcasing their specialty products. Breakout presentations will also be offered.

Each year is different, don't miss out!

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of PA**

**Women Veterans Chairperson Amy MacKenzie**

**717.575.3982**

**[quartermaster@ephrtavfw.org](mailto:quartermaster@ephrtavfw.org)**





## 2024 Women Veterans Conference / Expo

Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Pennsylvania

**Who:** Any woman veteran who lives in Pennsylvania (or belongs to a PA Military Unit)

**When:** March 15-16, 2024

**Where:** Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111



This is a **TWO** Page Registration Form! **Please print legibly.**

Attendee Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

E-mail

Branch of Service & Years Served

Any veteran groups you belong to

**The Agenda, Pricing and Scope of the Event has been changed this year, as per feedback from attendees.**

### Tentative Agenda

#### **Friday**

Registration opens at 3:00 pm

Expo Halls Open at 4:00 pm

Dinner On Your Own

Hospitality Room / Meet & Greet 7:00 pm

#### **Saturday**

Breakfast On Your Own

Registration Opens at 8:00 am

Expo Halls Open at 8:00 am

Lunch – Included with Registration Fee

Workshops in Breakout Rooms (schedule will be emailed and posted at registration)

Topics may include VA Service Officer, Military Sexual Trauma, Women's Leadership Classes, Veterans Court, Legislation, Service Animals, etc

Expo Halls Close at 4:00 pm

Dismiss

*This year's event will allow attendees to come / go at their leisure.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee**

**\$40.00 per person**

- All attendees must pay the base registration fee, regardless of lodging requirements.
- Registration includes Access to the Conference / Expo, the Friday Reception, and Saturday Lunch.
- Please click the link to book your own hotel room, if required:  
[Book your group rate for Women Veterans Retreat 2024](#)  
The link can also be found at [www.vfwpa.org](http://www.vfwpa.org) under the tabs “resources” “women veterans”  
Or call the hotel directly at 1-800-325-3535 and reference the 2024 Women Veterans Conference.

- The room rate is \$123.00 / night + taxes. You may book both Friday and Saturday if you choose.
- You are welcome to book a single or double occupancy room (with a roommate of your choosing)

**Donation to Event (optional)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*This event is subsidized primarily through generous donations from VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Pennsylvania. We also receive funds from our various “auctions” during the event.*

*Additional donations are greatly appreciated, to help us offer a high-quality program.*

**Totals Funds Submitted**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit the completed registration form, along with funds, and a copy of either your DD-214 (black out the SSN), VA ID card, or VSO card (i.e. VFW, AmVets, or American Legion)**

If you attended in the past, we may have your proof of eligibility on file – please ask.

Make **checks / money order** payable to “Department of PA VFW” with

“Women Veterans Conference” in the memo.

**Send to: Amy MacKenzie, 311 Jeff Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522**

Please contact Amy with any questions: 717.575.3982 or email [quartermaster@ephratavfw.org](mailto:quartermaster@ephratavfw.org)

**You will receive a confirmation email / phone call once your registration is processed.**

**You are ONLY considered “registered” once all paperwork and fees have been submitted.**

*Please abide by all regulations of the hotel and conference center, specifically regarding smoking, pets, and personal alcohol usage (open containers in public spaces). No alcohol will be permitted in the Expo Hall or Breakout Sessions.*



***NO ONE DOES MORE FOR  
VETERANS***



**VFW**  
**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®**