

**Department of North Carolina  
Veteran of Foreign Wars**

**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025-2026**



*Edward Beard*

*Department Commander*

*LESS TALK, MORE ACTION*

## **Purpose**

As stated in Section 230102 of our Congressional Charter “The purposes of the corporation are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, educational, and are:

1. To preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members.
2. To assist worthy comrades.
3. To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans.
4. To maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States and fidelity to its Constitution and laws.
5. To foster true patriotism.
6. To maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom; and
7. To preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.”

## **Commanders Statement**

Commanders, this will be the longest year, with the shortest days. It will test you in more ways than you can imagine. If it were easy, everyone would do it. Membership is tremendously important in our organization, but it is not the only thing. When you go through your year, change what you can, do the right things and leave the rest. Prioritize and organize. I have three main focuses: Advocacy, service officers and our POW/MIA mission. They all tie together, and it is what the VFW was founded on. They impact fellow veterans and their families' lives. Be the change for a fellow veteran. Honor those who came before us. If we promote these three things, I know we will evoke more interest, which will bring more members. 101% membership is our goal. The OIF/OEF community is ready to be involved. Let them know what we do, how we can change lives, and how they can feel a part of the military community again. Tell our story, tell your story!!! Have no regrets, don't take anything personally, never assume anything....be the transformation to the future! Honor the dead, by helping the living!

## **Membership Mission**

To build a strong organization through recruiting new members while retaining our current membership. Build a solid foundation for the future. To assist in mentoring our leadership and members. To coordinate programs to support our Posts and Districts in their membership efforts, and to provide training for all levels of VFW membership.

## **Membership Objectives**

1. Recruit, recruit, recruit!
2. Mentor all new and existing members to better understand and support the missions of our organization.
3. Inspire new leaders from within our ranks, who will bring innovative ideas, adjust for changing times, and generational differences to ensure a sustainable and healthy membership, for all to follow.
4. Increase life and legacy membership through inspiration and sense of pride in our organization.
5. Inspire the development of new Posts to better meet the needs of our veterans, their families, and their communities.

## **Individual Recruiting Rewards**

- 1-15+ Members – Commanders Pin
- 25+ Members – Commanders Coin
- 50+ Members - VFW Pad-Folio
- 100+ Members - \$100 Gift Card for VFW Store
- 150 + Members – Custom K Bar

## **Post Increasing Life Membership by 25%**

- Division A = Post with 665 to 1000 plus members
- Division B = Post with 332-664 members
- Division C = Post with 10-321 members

## **Post increasing New Membership by 35%**

- Division A = Post with 665 to 1000 plus members
- Division B = Post with 332 to 664 members
- Division C = Post with 10 to 321 members

### **Membership Award**

- Top Post in each division will receive \$150.00 to be deposited in their General Fund.

### **First to Finish District Award**

First District to attain 101% by 1 February 2026, will receive \$300 issued to the Quartermaster for the Districts General Fund.

### **Honor Post 101% Plus 1**

- Divisions 8, 9, 10, and 11 achieving 101% plus 1, and over 50 members by 12/31/2025.
- Division 4, 5, 6 and 7 achieving 101% plus 1 by 1/31/2026.
- Division 1, 2 and 3 achieving 101% plus 1 by 2/28/2026.

### **Honor Post Award**

- Each Honor Post will receive a pennant / plaque designating it as such.
- Each Honor Post will receive \$100 VFW Store Gift Card

## **ALL STATE CRITERIA**

The All-State Program exists to recognize exceptional leadership, above average accomplishments in membership growth and community service as well as support of and participation in the VFW core programs, all while maintaining a positive image to be the standard example presented to our members, sponsors, legislative representatives, and neighboring communities. Keeping these standards high will help to ensure the proliferation of our great organization.

### **All State Post Criteria**

- Achieve membership not less than 101%
- Voice of Democracy - Provide a minimum of one entry advanced to the District.
- Patriots Pen - Provide a minimum of one entry advanced to District.
- Teacher of the Year – Provide a minimum of one entry, in any category (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) advanced to District.

- Police, Fire, Dispatcher, or EMS of the year - advanced to District or payment of \$100 to Department.
- Post Commander or their representative (Senior or Junior Vice Commander must attend all District Meetings).
- All Bond Applications, trustee reports, and 990 IRS filings must be submitted prior to established deadlines.
- Participation (team, sponsorship, donations, volunteer support) in the annual Billy Ray Campbell / Otis Brown Scholarship Golf Tournament.
- Sell all allotted Department Raffle Tickets and provide all required documentation as prescribed by the program rules.
- Make a minimum of one \$25 donation to the National Home for Commander in Chief's special project.
- Make a minimum of one \$25 to the Department for Commander's joint Special project.
- Election and Election reports must be submitted in accordance with established deadlines.
- All Post and Bingo (if applicable) inspections must be completed and passed by the District Inspector.

### **All State Post Awards**

- All State Post Citation
- All State Cap (Commander and QM only)
- Acknowledgement in the VFW Leader Magazine
- All State Streamer
- Announcement placed in your local newspaper to announce your achievements
- Department Representative will attend any scheduled Post celebration of the achievement

### **All State District Criteria**

- Achieve membership not less than 101%
- Advance one entry from each Program (VOD, PP, TOY, and Safety to Program Chairman by the prescribed deadlines.
- Conduct School of Instructions within the first quarter of the Election year and report Post attendance to the Department Adjutant.
- Complete all Post and Bingo Inspections (if applicable) within the prescribed timelines, and submit them to Department Inspector.
- Collect a written report from each Post as to their activities prior to each C of A and Convention and turn into the Dept Adj 1 week prior.
- District Commander, Sr Vice Commander, or Jr Vice Commander, Quartermaster and/or Adjutant must attend each District Meeting.
- All Bond applications, trustee reports and IRS filings must be submitted prior to established deadlines.

### **All State District Awards**

- All State district Citation
- All State Cap (Commander and QM only)
- Acknowledgement in the VFW Leader Magazine

## COMMANDER’S CHALLENGE

IF THE DEPARTMENT REACHES OVER 101% OF MEMBERSHIP BY  
MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> 2026, THE DEPARTMENT HOSPITALITY ROOM WILL BE FREE  
OF CHARGE FOR JUNE CONVENTION FOR ALL COMRADES WITH  
VALID VFW LIFE OR LEGACY ID CARD.

### “LESS TALK, MORE ACTION”

I acknowledge receipt of the 2025 – 2026 Department of North Carolina Veterans  
of Foreign Wars Membership Program.

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Name (print)

Signature

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Post/Dist #

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Title

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Date Received