



Memorial Commendation FAQs

What is a Memorial Commendation?

~ It is an expression of the VFW and its Auxiliaries condolences to the family, as well as an offer of support. The commendation itself is a professional certificate with the appropriate branch of service emblem enclosed in a vinyl portfolio.

How can I find out if there has been a casualty from my department?

~1. The MAP office checks the DoD's website daily and sends email notifications of casualties to the corresponding VFW Department. The email includes: a scan of the certificate; an offer of the commendation; and a copy of the news release from the DoD.

~2. Frequently, the casualty appears in the wire services, internet & local news even before the DoD makes their announcement.

How do I obtain a Memorial Commendation?

~Contact the MAP office with the service member's: Full name, Rank, Branch of Service & the shipping instructions.

How does the family of the deceased service member receive the Memorial Commendation?

~Memorial Commendations should only be presented in person by a VFW/ Auxiliary member. It should never be mailed or presented by someone outside the VFW organization.

How do I make contact with the family?

~1. By using the contact numbers provided in the DoD's news release, which are normally military public affairs offices. Please respect that many families do not wish to be contacted and may have their contact information withheld by the military.

~2. News releases other than the DoD's will sometimes provide the Church or Funeral home contact information.

~3. There may be an existing connection within your Department/Districts/Posts: adopted unit, family member, friend, etc.

~Contact the Casualty Assistance Center for your area- Army:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Casualty%20Assistance%20Centers%20Locator>

Can I rush the shipping of the commendation?

~Due to budgetary constraints, the MAP office is restricted to standard shipping methods only (no express or over-night). We recommend making other arrangements to present the commendation.

Why is the rank on the commendation different occasionally from what the family states?

~ Occasionally, service members killed in action are promoted after the Department of Defense has issued the official press release. The MAP office can usually issue replacements the same day as requested.