

Official Publication of the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars



#### VFWNC SERVICE OFFICERS ACCEPT AWARD (P9)

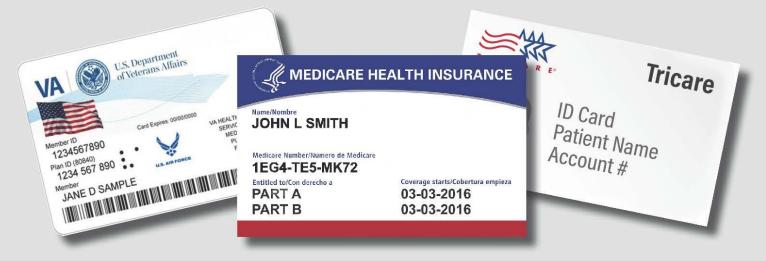


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The Official Publication of the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars www.vfwnc.com

# Features

The Leader Magazine is Published Quarterly by the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars 917 New Bern Ave. PO Box 25337 Raleigh, NC 27611 919-828-5058

| Editor    | Kevin  | Holden |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Publisher | .Clark | Hunter |

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Letters, stories, materials or photographs are welcomed, but cannot be returned unless sender provides SASE.

VFW of NC will not be responsible for unsolicited materials. Submission of articles and photos implies the right to edit and publish all or in part.

Please send your comments, suggestions, articles and photos to:

leaderinfo@vfwnc.com

#### editor@vfwnc.com

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**ON THE COVER** 

**VFWNC Service Officers Accept Award** 

#### DEDICATION

This Magazine is Dedicated to The Men and Women of the Armed Services Who Honor, Protect and Defend This Great Nation.

#### Magazine available online at vfwnc.com

#### STATE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



#### COMRADES COOTIES & AUXILIARY MEMBERS

A great Mid-Winter Council gathering was topped off with

a huge turnout for the VOD, PP, TOY Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Congratulations again to all of our contestants, you truly are all Winners! Now it is on to the National competition, and we wish all of our contestants well as we support them on the National stage! A huge thanks to all who helped this year to put the contest and the awards banquet together.

As I put my thoughts together for this issue, the National Legislative Conference and Council of Administration meetings are about to kick off in Arlington, Virginia and Washington, DC. Once again, we are being denied access to our representatives in Congress as they have placed extreme limitations on the number of attendees for the Commander-in-Chief's testimony and have put severe restrictive requirements on how and when visitations with Senators and Representatives can occur These limitations and restrictions were so extreme that it caused the cancellation of funding for the travel of all our Legislative Committee members, Department Commanders and Department officers by our national office. This is unacceptable and must not be allowed to continue. As defenders of Freedom, we must have clear and open access to our elected representatives to represent our elected membership and to see that they are provided for in a

**Just Manner.** Contact your elected representatives and tell them to reopen the government for the business of the people.

Today's headlines and social media stories from around the world tell of a new war in a distant land . While I pray that by the time you read this issue the fighting has stopped, I fear that may not be the case. I applaud the Ukrainian people for taking a stand for their homeland and their way of life in the face of a dictator and for refusing to lay down their arms or leave their homeland in desperation. Their fight against a larger aggressor is an uphill battle for certain; but their determination is immeasurable. Let us all pray that an end is found sooner rather than later and that the world isn't dragged into a global confrontation.

Wow! I can't believe that my term as your Commander is almost over. I have so many people to thank for this year's success. The spirit of cooperation and volunteerism has been amazing and should make us all proud of our accomplishments. Our Department Convention is just around the corner, June 9-12 at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, where we can celebrate our past year together.

IN COMRADESHIP *Russ Chambers* State Commander

> SERVICE-SACRIFICE RESPECT-RESPONSIBILITY

#### 2021/2022 Department Officers



| VFW of North Carolina        |  |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| State CommanderRuss Chambers |  |  |
| Senior Vice CdrTim Woods     |  |  |
| Junior Vice CdrHelen Nelson  |  |  |
| QuartermasterChuck Slater    |  |  |
| AdjutantJoe Horn             |  |  |
| Judge AdvocateDave Wagoner   |  |  |
| SurgeonJohnny Taylor         |  |  |
| ChaplainRichard Rice         |  |  |
| Chief of StaffJ.K. Smith     |  |  |
| Department Service Officers  |  |  |

Tab Brown 252-933-2040 (East)tab.brown318@va.govJay Wood 980-866-1328 (West)jerry.wood1@va.govCindy Hathaway 336-631-5457 cynthia.hathaway@va.gov<br/>Winston Salem Office

#### **District Commanders**

#### DISTRICTS

| 1. Graham Lever | 10. John Marion |
|-----------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|-----------------|

- 2. Robert Brock 11. Dolphus Troy
- 3. Jimmy Baughman 12. Bobbi Sheets
- 4. Barbara Chance 13. Danny Rochester
- 5. Anna Cummings 14. Art Gordon
- 6. Joe Caradonna 15. William Carter
- 7. David Martin 16. Robert Sumner
- 8. Josh Holt
- 17. Robert Morrow
- 9. Dwight Rickard



Commander Russ Chambers



Senior Vice Cdr. Tim Woods



Judge Advocate David Wagoner



Chaplain Richard Rice



Quartermaster Chuck Slater



Junior Vice Cdr. Helen Nelson



Surgeon Johnny Taylor



Chief of Staff J.K Smith



Adjutant Joe Horn



**Greetings Veterans** 

The Veterans Foundation of NC continues to support and fund the following programs:

VOICE OF DEMOCRACYVETERANS RELIEF FUNDNC CHILDREN'S HOMEGUITARS FOR VETSVETERANS HEALING FARMFOOTBRIDGE DENTAL CLINIC

#### FREE VETERANS DENTAL CLINIC April 1-3, 2022

Footbridge is partnering with Pinedale Christian Church in Winston Salem, NC to offer a FREE Dental Clinic for Military Veterans plus one guest This includes x-rays, examinations and extractions fillings, cleaning and other services
Proof of Military Service will be requested at check-in Pinedale Christian Church is located at
3395 Peters Creek Parkway, Winston Salem, NC Volunteer Professionals and Workers needed.
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#### **NEW VFW MEMBERS**



US Senate candidate Marjorie K. Eastman and her husband Charles were sworn in as new members of the NC Department of VFW at the recent C of A. Their son Henk also joined the ceremony.

Marjorie and Charles are Veterans of multiple combat deployments. Marjorie is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Action Badge. In 2018 Marjorie was selected as one of the nation's Top 25 Influencers Supporting the Military Community, known as Mighty 25.

As the spouse of a soldier, Marjorie understands life from the perspective of military family members. Her husband, Charles, served a career in the US Army as A Ranger and as an AH-64 Apache Longbow and AH-6 Little Bird aviator.

After 20 years of living around the world, Marjorie and Charles finally chose their forever home in Cary, North Carolina.

#### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

#### **GREETINGS COMRADES!**

At the recent Council meeting in Greensboro, I noted that many comrades didn't know about the Southern Conference or North Carolina's role in this organization.



The VFW is divided up into conferences and the Southern Conference is comprised of the 14 Southern states from Texas to Virginia. Past Commander Victor Letourneaut was elected Vice Chairman this year. The annual meeting rotates among the states and in 2021 NC was scheduled to host the event, but due to COVID restrictions, it was moved to South Carolina at Hilton Head Island.

The conference will be hosted by NC from October 27-30, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Asheville. The event is being organized by Senior Vice Commander Tim Woods and Steve Amos. Along with the meeting, a trip to the casino in Cherokee is planned. There will even be a zip line.

The event is a chance for NC to shine by hosting the other Southern departments. There is a need for volunteers and for posts/districts to bring their vans to pick up visitors and transport them to various events. Please volunteer if you can, as we only get this chance to shine every 14 years.

The pre-registration fee, which includes the banquet, hospitality room and entertainment, is \$85.00. Registration at the conference is \$95.00. Rooms at the Crowne Plaza Hotel are \$182.00 plus tax per night. For hotel reservations contact the hotel directly at (828) 285-2603. For more information go to Facebook "VFWNC 2022 Southern Conference", and send a message about volunteering. We hope to see you in October.

#### **KEVIN HOLDEN, Editor**

#### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS AWARD (Cover Story)**

(L-R) Cover Photo: Bob Wallace, Executive Director, VFW Washington DC Office, Jay Wood, Assistant Dept. Service Officer, Tab Brown Dept. Service Officer, Cindy Hathaway Claims Consultant, and Ryan Gallucci, Director, National Veteran Services. Service Officers accepted a \$250.00 certificate to the VFW Store for finishing 2nd in the Nation/World in the National Commander-in-Chief's Challenge to get to \$9 Billion dollars returned to Veterans in Compensation.

**JAY WOOD:** VFW Life Member since 2014, District & Post level leadership - All-American District & All-American Post honors - Department State Legislative & Department Budget Committees. Jay is a retired USAF Command Pilot with over 5000 flying hours, 122 Combat Sorties/50 Combat Support Sorties throughout Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Afghanistan & Iraq. Since 2009 he has been in progressive Veterans Services positions with Accreditation a former Director of Cabarrus County Veterans Services and Vice Commander of the NC Veterans Council 2021-2022

**TAB BROWN:** VFW Life Member since 2014, 2 Time All-State Post Commander - All- American Post Commander - Jr & Sr Vice Commander District 2 (4 years) - Assistant Department Service Officer (4 1/2 years) - Department Service Officer (2 years). Tab has been a Reconnaissance Marine, Airborne, Jumpmaster , Parris Island Drill Instructor, Joint Service Staff member USAIS Fort Benning Georgia, Infantry Instructor Camp Lejeune, NC, Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company, Norfolk, VA. Tab is the father of 4 and the Grandfather of 2.

**CYNTHIA HATHAWAY:** After a 27 year career in hospitality Cynthia served in 2013 with the American Legion office. It was an eye opening experience to see how Veterans struggle with their claim work to the VA. As their administrative assistant, it sparked an interest I didn't realize I had. I have been with the VFW since 2018 as their Claims Consultant. Every day is a learning experience: whether it is a story that a WWII Veteran has told me, or something endearing that a widow has shared with me. My husband of 24 years and I enjoy gardening and preserving his harvest, as well as weekend getaways.



#### SGT DANIEL F. HYATT VFW POST 891



(LR) Ronald Piercy, Post Adjutant: Craig Doan, Chief of Volunteer Service Asheville VAMC: Larry Fowler Post Commander.

**SGT Daniel F. Hyatt VFW Post 891** continues its 92 years of service to the local community since 20 May 1929. Located in West Asheville, the 8 acre facility has been active in supporting the Charles George VAMC in Asheville with their Annual Hospice (Butterfly) Benefit that has raised over \$35,000 over the past years.

Both Post Commander and Adjutant were recognized at the recent VAMC Volunteer Awards as the only Veterans Service Officers in the Hospital.

VFW Post 891 members and Auxiliary continue to support the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs at local Middle and High Schools as well as the Junior ROTS cadet recognition awards. Local teachers who support and sponsor these programs were recognized at the annual banquet.

Commander Larry Fowler received the 2021 Cornerstone Award that is awarded for years of dedication with a record of commitment to the Veterans as a Veterans Service Officer. Commander Fowler was previously selected as the 2016 Charles George VAMC Volunteer of the Year.

VFW Post 891 hosts many activities and is proud of their facility which offers an outdoor deck, picnic facilities, an upper floor for bingo and special events and a lower floor for Post/Auxiliary meetings with a canteen area.

(Thanks to Post Commander Larry Fowler for this contribution)

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

### **HELLO SPRING!**



2022

#### **JUNE 9-12** NC DEPARTMENT CONVENTION GREENSBORO, NC

JULY 16-21 NATIONAL CONVENTION KANAS CITY, MO

AUGUST 20-21 COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION KANAS CITY, MO

#### AUGUST 27TH NC STATE BILLY RAY CAMERON GOLF TOURNAMENT RIVER OAKS GOLF CLUB STATESVILLE, NC

**SEPTEMBER 12-15** LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE WASHINGTON, DC

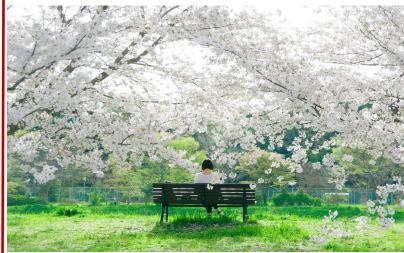
**SEPTEMBER 30-OCT 2** COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION GREENSBORO, NC

OCTOBER 27-30 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ASHEVILLE, NC









### FEBRUARY C OF A

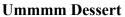


It just doesn't fit Commander





Andy presents Humana





Jay Woods & Mark Larkin







**Escorting VOD Winner** 



**Veterans Foundation VOD Presentation** 12

**Buddy Poppy Winners** 

#### HONORING VOD/PATRIOTS PEN/TEACHERS



They are all Winners!

### **VFW POST 7620**

**VFW Post 7620** is a very active Post with a Chili Cook-Off held annually in downtown Andrews, NC. A Big success with over 55 gallons of chili served to 300 hungry attendees. Another event is "Hot Summer Nights Car and Bike show" held in August. In the Fall we participate in the Octoberfest celebration in downtown Andrews where we cook and serve German specialties. Along with all of these events we do raffles and Buddy Poppy drives.

#### Post Cdr. Scott Ramler/QM Tony Anderson



(LR) Chili Cook-Off Winners: Leslie & Curt Steinlage 3rd Place; Duron Smith 2nd Place; LeeAnn Weaver 1st Place



OST 7620 CHIL

EAndrews, NCE

CRUISE-IN ANDREWS



A United States Marine Veteran who served in Desert Storm with the 2nd Marine MarDiv, Annie, a disabled Veteran, had a short but noteworthy military career. Multiple Meritorious promotions and a Navy Commendation Medal are just a few of her accomplishments. In her Civilian pursuits she became a dynamic leader in the Automotive Industry. Her commitment to any task with a can-do attitude have been a credit to every organization in her path. Since joining the VFW, Annie has served as QM, Post Commander, District Commander and Canteen Manager. Through her leadership style her Post and District Teams have achieved All-American and All State Post. All American and All State District, Dept. Recruiter of the Year and National Special-Aide-de-Camp. Annie has demonstrated her commitment to our Veterans and the mission of the VFW.

PARTICIPATION-RETENTION-INSPIRATION DEDICATION-ENERGIZE

ANNIE CUMMINGS *Candidate For* JR VICE COMMANDER 2022-2023



#### VFW and Humana are working to provide meals for military and veteran families across the country

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Feb. 1, 2022) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is proud to announce that for the fourth year in a row, it is teaming up with Humana to kick off its annual "Uniting to Combat Hunger" (UTCH) campaign, focusing its 2022 efforts on furthering awareness and providing meals to those facing hunger and food insecurity.

Established in 2018, the UTCH campaign was created to raise awareness of food insecurity, which can affect 1 in 4 Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans, and 1 in 8 people in America. To date, the UTCH campaign has provided more than 2.5 million meals to service members, veterans, military families and communities in need.

With a goal of providing 500,000 meals, this year's campaign will culminate at the 123rd VFW National Convention being held in Kansas City on July 16-21, 2022.

"When the men and women of our armed forces put on their uniform, the last thing on their mind should be where the next meal for themselves or their family is coming from," said VFW National Commander Fritz Mihelcic. "Together we know we can ensure America's military and veteran communities have access to the sustenance and fulfillment every person deserves."

"Education and awareness are an important part of the battle against food insecurity for our military-affiliated community," said Andrew Renda, M.D., MPH, Vice President, Bold Goal and Population Health Strategy for Humana. "We are committed to helping our communities better recognize and respond to veteran food insecurity while also connecting our veterans to the food they need to achieve their best health."

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 60 million people turned to food banks and community programs for help and putting food on the table in 2020, according to Feeding America. The support raised now through July will help provide vital support for thousands of service members, veterans and their families.

To help provide meals to families facing hunger, donate today at vfw.org/UTCHDonate. Learn more about the "Uniting to Combat Hunger" campaign and how you can directly help in the fight against food insecurity by visiting vfw.org/UTCH.

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For more information, Medicare-eligible individuals can visit www.medicare.gov or call **800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227)**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, you can learn about Humana plans by going to **Humana.com/Medicare** or calling **800-213-5286 (TTY: 711)** to speak with a licensed sales agent from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.



Humana is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO, and PFFS organization and stand-alone prescription drug plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana Medicare plan depends on contract renewal.

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Northeast Raleigh | Raleigh, NC 4600 Capital Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27604

Winston-Salem | Winston-Salem, NC 2668 Peters Creek Pkwy, Winston-Salem, NC 27127



# COOTIES



Grand Commander Allen Doubles



Grand Senior Vice Helen Nelson



Grand Junior Tim Woods

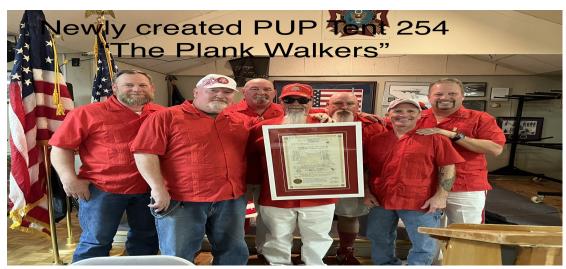


Grand Quartermaster Arthur Erhardt

GRAND OFFICERS



Grand Adjutant Barbara Chance



The NC Grand Military of the Cootie held its Winter C of A on February 18-20 at "Spring Leak" Pup Tent 8 VFW Post 9103. The MOC is the "Honor Degree" within the VFW and mainly responsible for the Hospital Work and keeping our hospitalized Veterans smiling in beds of white. At this C of A we recognized the installation of a new Pup Tent, PT 254 "Plank Walkers" out of Newport NC. We are increasing and multiplying.

#### **CAPTAIN MARK GARNER VFW POST 7794**

It is with a sad and heavy heart that **Captain Mark Garner VFW Post 7794 of Elkin, NC** announces the passing of Post Adjutant Ronny White, also of Elkin. Ronny was the Post Bugler and member of the Honor Guard. His compassion and love of the post allowed him to recruit many new members and transfers. Last year he was the Top Recruiter for the post. His love of community allowed him to bond the post to key partnerships with local organizations as well as the high school JROTC and the Elkin HS Shooting Team. The post's recognition last year as an All-American Post was in no small part due to his efforts.

The Honor Guard will continue and aspire to meet his desire that we have enough members for a dignified transfer into eternity for all Veterans in our area.



VFW Post Adjutant Ronny White

A Big Day at Smith-Reynolds Airport for 250 Air Force and Army JROTC high school students from eight different high schools. They converged at the terminal to see a USAF C-130 and two Army National Guard Humvees. The VFW Post and auxiliary members, accompanied by active duty Air Force and Army National Guard, presented the theme....a day to reflect Past/Present/ Future Service to the Country. The Cadets enjoyed an exciting day of hands-on-learning as they studied the many capabilities of the Humvees, targeting weapons systems. a Big Thanks to the 883rd Engineer Co (SAPPERS)-NCARNG! With Mission Accomplished ,the USAF has promised to reschedule the event in the very near future. The schools said they would all be back.



# FAYETTEVILLE VFW POST 6018 ACTIVITIES









Our Post sponsored Organizational Day for our adopted unit, 3rd ESC BDE.

The Unit enjoyed delicious food, fun, games and awesome fellowship. We are always honored to support our adopted unit.

Another exciting event for Veteran's Day members of VFW Post 6018. We assisted at the Fayetteville Healthcare Center and honored all Medal of Honor recipients born in NC at a ceremony held at the VA Clinic on Raeford Road.

The Post and Auxiliary were on hand for the Heroes Homecoming United for Veterans presented by the Fayetteville Woodpeckers at Segra Stadium. This was a celebration to honor the Veterans who sacrificed it all for our country.

The Post participated in the first 82nd Airborne Division All American Fair. It was an opportunity to showcase what makes the 82nd and its subordinate units unique by demonstrating the capabilities to All American Families.





## STEPHEN AMOS USMC

#### Candidate for Junior Vice Commander 2022-2023 I LOVE THE VFW!

This is the reason I devote so much time and energy to this Organization. I have the experience to help lead this great Department **Comrade 1982-Present** Life Member VFW Post 5352 Kernersville, NC **Co-Chairman NC Southern Conference Committee 2022** Department VOD Chairman 2017-18/2020-22 **Department Hospitality Chairman 2019-22** Post Quartermaster 2012-14/2017-22 All American Post Quartermaster 2020-21 National General Resolutions Committee 2011-12/2016-17/2019-22 **District Jr-Vice Commander 2018-21** National Aide-De-Camp 2007-08/2013-14/2019-20 **Department Safety Chairman 2017-19 Department Homeless Veterans Chairman 2018-19 Department Patriots Pen Chairman 2016-17 Department Chief of Staff 2012-13 Department State Inspector 2008-12** National Assistant Inspector General 2010-11 National Security and Foreign Affairs Committee 2008-11 National Deputy Chief of Staff 2009-10 **Department Community Activities Chairman 2005-08 District Commander 2003-2008** National Citizenship Education & Community Service Committee 2006-07 Post Commander 2004-07 Post Sr-Vice Commander 2002-04 Post Jr-Vice Commander 2000-02 **"ALL VETERANS ARE PRIORITY ONE"** 

### CORPORAL RODOLFO P. HERNANDEZ VFW POST 670

**Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez VFW Post 670** has been busy this Winter. We had an Adopt-A-Unit Event that fed soldiers the requested Chik-fil-A sandwiches, chips, salads and desserts. Former Commander John Shelander with current post commander Mike Baker, Auxiliary President, Linda Shelander and 4 other post and auxiliary members were on hand to thank the soldiers and explain the benefits of being a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

The post also hosted a New Year's Eve dinner/dance with a great band and delicious food. In February the post had a rock concert and all proceeds were donated to Veteran non-profit 22 Until None. Post Commander Mike Baker presented a \$1000 check to Chris Mack, representative of the organization. At the February C of A the post had a few Bass Pro Raffle winners. Mike Baker presented Warren Norton, a local citizen, a \$750 gift card for a gun safe.



**Adopt-A-Unit Event** 



New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

Chik-fil-A for all to enjoy





**Enjoying New Year's Eve** 



**Presenting \$1000 Check** 

(Thanks to QM Amelia Smith for this contribution)



# FACT SHEET

**As the nation's oldest major war veterans' organization,** the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4.5 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.



**Educate** a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

**Provide** training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

*Help* cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

**Deliver** 4 morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



# 2,000+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

# ber of VFV

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

# \_\$10 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits.

24

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

# \$12.3 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 44% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

# 2.4 million+

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

# \$2.9 million

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

# \$9.85 million+ \_\_\_\_

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 2,200 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

Updated December 2021



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