

NC VFW *The Leader* Magazine Summer 2022



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



WELCOME NEW OFFICERS 2022/2023

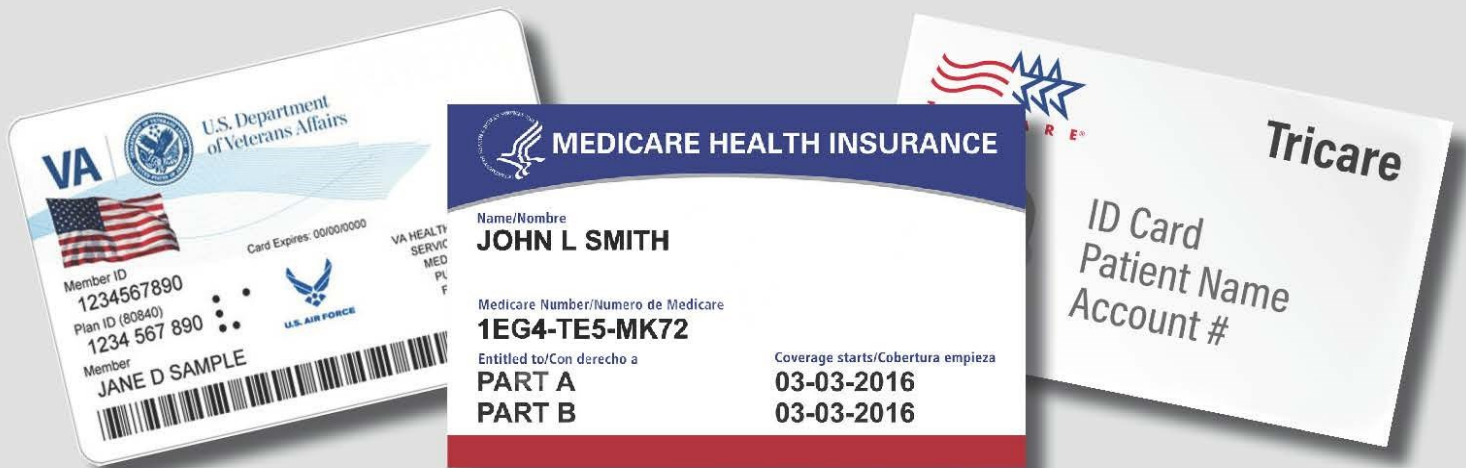


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

**NO ONE DOES MORE
FOR VETERANS**

VFW National Award Winning Magazine

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WANT MORE?

If you are a Veteran with only these cards you may be missing out on benefits such as:

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Over The Counter Benefits & Gym Membership.**



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Regional Manager
Advocate Health Advisors
336-416-3320 (TTY:711)
Doug.Marshall@advocatehealthllc.com
M-F, 8:00am - 5:00pm



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Over 16 Years!*

www.advocateforveterans.com



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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.....Russ Chambers
Publisher.....Clark Hunter

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

VFW of NC will not be responsible for un-
solicited materials. Submission of articles
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publish all or in part.

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

leaderinfo@vfwnc.com

editor@vfwnc.com

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Welcome New Officers 2022/2023

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

First and foremost, it is my honor to serve as your Department Commander for the 2022-2023 year and I hope we go

“Full Speed Into The Future” together. I would like to congratulate Past Department Commander Russell Chambers on his successful year and making 100% membership and achieving All-American status as a Department Commander. He has left big shoes to fill with a five year in a row department All-American status. Let's hit the ground running with membership and all the VFW programs. Myself along with Senior Vice Helen Nelson and Junior Vice Annie Cummings are excited to get this year off on the right foot and make some changes to make everyone's job a little easier utilizing our Department website. These changes should keep tracking of programs easier for post, districts and the Department with training being a big issue with our team. If anyone in the Department, at any level, has any questions please contact us, we are here to help.

All programs like the All-State and All American programs along with the by-laws will be available on website. If you do not see something you need on the website or think may help please let us know. I plan on having a successful year for the Posts, Districts and Department.

Let's all work hard, play hard and have fun completing our mission. Know when business is business and mixing in a good time. I will make myself available 24/7 for the year.

Communication is a key element for success, and I will communicate to my team all issues good or bad. Transparency is something we need to use in case something were to happen to one of us we would know how to move forward and complete the mission.

The other major element that I have for this year is accountability on all levels up and down our leadership. As I have said from day one, I expect all members of the Department to hold me accountable as Department Commander, as I will hold the leaders of posts, districts and the Department accountable for themselves.

This year let us have fun, let us all work hard and I know that we can make six years in a row with 100% membership and fulfill all of our programs. I feel we need to move into the future, but never forget the past while keeping many of our customs and traditions alive. We can grow our organization as we have plenty of potential members in this great state; think outside of the box.

We don't have to bring potential members to our posts, we can invite these Veterans to wherever they feel comfortable, such as starting up a new post. Let's grow the state on members and posts while supporting the Auxiliary and the Cooties. We are all here to offer support. Just like when we were serving, rely on your partner, battle buddy, unit or group while covering our backs and making this the best Department in the world. Remember, we can only give you the tools, you have to make the project come together. Please review GO-1 to see who the chairpersons are, and come to the Department schools of instruction on the last weekend in July and first weekend in August.

I will say again, Let us have a great year and a year full of success for everyone. **“Full Speed Into The Future”** and enjoy the ride. Please feel free to contact me at any-time and stay safe and healthy this year. Again thank you for trusting and believing in me to lead the great state of North Carolina.

YOURS IN COMRADESHIP

Tim Woods, State Commander

2022/2023 Department Officers



VFW of North Carolina

State Commander.....Tim Woods
Senior Vice Cdr.....Helen Nelson
Junior Vice Cdr.....Annie Cummings
Adjutant/Quartermaster....Joe Horn
Judge Advocate.....Josh Holt
Surgeon.....Johnny Taylor
Chaplain.....Alicia Judd
Chief of Staff.....Pat Tompkins

Department Service Officers

Jay Wood 980-866-1328 (West) jerry.wood1@va.gov
Tab Brown 252-933-2040 (East) tab.brown318@va.gov
Cindy Hathaway 336-631-5457 cynthia.hathaway@va.gov
Winston Salem Office

District Commanders

DISTRICTS

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Graham Leaver | 10. John Marion |
| 2. Robert Brock | 11. Dolphus Troy |
| 3. Jimmy Baughman | 12. Bobbi Sheets |
| 4. Barbara Chance | 13. Robert Pate |
| 5. Bradley Lauver | 14. Art Gordon |
| 6. Christopher Brown | 15. William Carter |
| 7. David Martin | 16. Robert Sumner |
| 8. Mike Baker | 17. Robert Morrow |
| 9. Donald Cochran | |



Commander Tim Woods



Senior Vice Cdr.
Helen Nelson



Junior Vice Cdr.
Annie Cummings



Adjutant/QM
Joe Horn



Judge Advocate
Josh Holt



Surgeon
Johnny Taylor



Chaplain
Alicia Judd



Chief of Staff
Pat Tompkins



Dept. Mascot
Sadie



Greetings Veterans

The Veterans Foundation of NC continues to support and fund the following programs: **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY** **VETERANS RELIEF FUND**

NC CHILDREN'S HOME

GUITARS FOR VETS

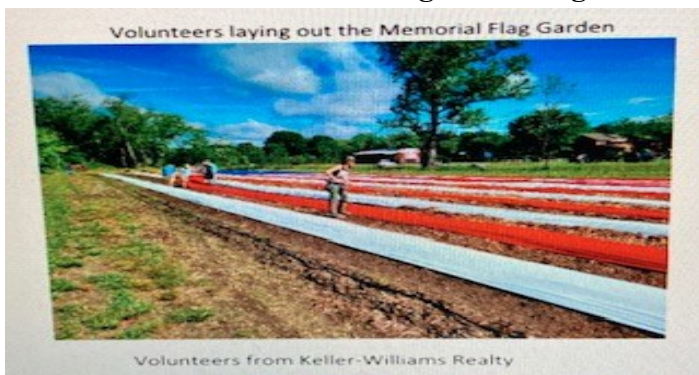
VETERANS HEALING FARM

FOOTBRIDGE DENTAL CLINIC

The Veterans Foundation continues to be busy by extending our financial support to many nonprofit programs to help Veterans of NC. These include: Voice of Democracy which provides scholarships to high school seniors through competing in a patriotic essay contest, Department of NC Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars Relief Fund, which assists needy Veterans by providing relief for their families, Guitars for Veterans, a program that provides free guitar lessons for Veterans suffering from PTSD which includes a free guitar. The Veterans Healing Farm, a program that provides a working farm environment for Veterans who need to connect with the civilian world through working with their hands and learning how to farm and Footbridge Dental Care which offers Veterans free dental care from routine dental cleaning and x-rays to extractions, fillings, and crowns at no cost to Veterans and their families.

We continue to look for more ways to help Veterans in NC. If you know of a worthy non-profit program the Foundation should consider supporting, please contact Ken Sellers at 336-253-1113 or email at taikijorsel@gmail.com

Volunteers work at the Healing Farm Flag Garden



A Guided Fishing Trip



Family Night at the Farm



KEN SELLERS, President/DEAN HARRIS, Chief Financial Officer/GREG STAFFORD, Executive Director

VFW POST 7032 ROTC AWARDS

On 20 April 2022 at East Carolina University ROTC Awards programs, Department Commander Russ Chambers and Color Guard Captain Rose Quasebarth of VFW Post 7032 presented VFW Awards to Army ROTC Cadet Aaron Carey and Air Force Cadet Brady Hill. Each candidate has to be in the top 10% of his ROTC class and top 25% of academic class and demonstrate leadership qualities.



Air Force Cadet Brady Hill accepts award



Army Cadet Aaron Carey accepts award

EDITOR'S COMMENTS



GREETINGS COMRADES!

What a better way to start my year as a past commander than to accept the position of editor of our Leader Magazine. As you know, I have served in this position in previous years. Our mission at the Leader is to bring you features about post activities and up to date information that you might find helpful. This year we are looking for more support for the magazine by generating income to offset the printing costs.

This can be accomplished by selling more ads and finding sponsors to assist with the printing. Please do not forget that our magazine is on our Department website and can be downloaded for your convenience. The magazine also serves as a recruiting and marketing tool when you are talking to advertisers and potential new members.

It looks like a busy year ahead and we welcome our new team as they lead us into the future. Some of the events include the NC State Billy Ray Cameron Golf Tournament at Twin Oaks Golf Club in Statesville, NC August 27, Our Council of Administration in Greensboro, NC September 12-15 and The Southern Conference in Asheville, NC October 27-30. Please put these dates on your calendar.

Your support of The Leader Magazine is greatly appreciated and please keep those articles and photographs about activities in your Districts and Posts coming in.

Again, we look forward to a great year by keeping you informed with our award winning magazine. ***Russ Chambers, Editor***



**The Veterans of Foreign
Wars
Department of
North Carolina**



Presents the
**Billy Ray Cameron Memorial
Golf Tournament**

**Saturday, August 27, 2022
Twin Oaks Golf Club
320 Twin Oaks Road, Statesville NC
704-872-3979**

Opening ceremonies begin at 8:00 featuring:

- **Mooreville Fire Department bag Pipers**
- **Salutes to all military branches**
- **Singing of "God Bless America" by Kate Smith**
- **VERY FAMOUS guest speaker**

**Ceremonies will be followed by "Taps" in remembrance of all veterans
who made the supreme sacrifice**

**CAPTAIN'S CHOICE (SCRAMBLE) FORMAT
Make Your Own Team - \$75 per person**

**(includes Practice Round on Friday, August 26, 2022;
Call to make a tee time for the practice round)**

Registration 7:30 – Shotgun Start at 9:00
Team Prizes, Closest to the Pin, Door Prizes
Sausage Biscuits, Donuts & Coffee
Bloody Mary's & Screwdrivers (For Donation)
Refreshments on the course,
Hot dogs at the Club House during play
Pig Pickin' and Chicken Pluckin' at the Post following golf

For information & registration, contact
VFW Post 2031 @ 704-873-9126

**COME JOIN US FOR
A GREAT TIME FOR A GREAT CAUSE**



COMMANDERS HOMECOMING

A beautiful evening and a beautiful setting were the backdrop for our Commander's Homecoming. Friends, families and comrades were all gathered to show their appreciation and bid farewell to Auxiliary President Sandra Johnson-Leu and Commander Russ Chambers for their great leadership throughout the year. All in attendance were treated to a full picnic dinner hosted by VFW Post 9010/Auxiliary Clemmons, NC. VFW Post 5352 Kernersville, NC assisted, and Dewey's Bakery of Winston Salem, NC was a sponsor. Dolphus Troy and team did a spectacular job organizing the event. The setting was the pavilion at Triad Park, home of the Veterans Memorial which is a humbling reminder of those who served in WWII. We wish Sandra and Russ all the best in their future endeavors.



DATES TO REMEMBER



2022

JULY 16-21
NATIONAL CONVENTION
KANSAS CITY, MO

AUGUST 20-21
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
KANSAS CITY, MO

AUGUST 27TH
NC STATE BILLY RAY CAMERON
GOLF TOURNAMENT
TWIN 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

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE



WELCOME TO THE VFW SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
IN THE MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 27TH – OCTOBER 30TH 2022

Crowne Plaza Asheville
1 Resort Drive
Asheville, NC 28806

The Southern Conference of the VFW is one of four conferences in the national organization, and represents the fourteen states stretching across the United States from Texas to Virginia.

Our goal is to administer support to Veterans and their families, providing resources both locally and nationally in a way that no other part of the organization can - with immense

Southern Pride!

Visit vfwnc.com for more information



Edward Beard
Candidate for Junior Vice Commander
2023-2024

Silver Legacy Life Member
US Army Retired (23 Years)

Desert Shield / Desert Storm Veteran

Commander, VFW Post 6018 (Largest Post in North Carolina with over 1100 members)

5 Time All American Commander

5 Time All State Commander

District 8 All American Commander

District 8 All State Commander

2020-2021 Post Community Service Award Winner

2020-2021 / 2021-2022 National Recruiter Award Winner

3 Time National Aide-De-Camp

Past Department of North Carolina Chief of Staff

Past Convention Council Committee Member

Past Public Affairs Officer Central Representative

Current Chairman Past District Commanders Club

Current Veterans & Military Support Chairman – 5 years

“Less Talk, More Action”

92ND VFW STATE CONVENTION



92ND VFW STATE CONVENTION



The 192nd VFW State Convention kicked off with the excitement of a new year, elections and with the celebration of Commander Russ Chambers successful past year reaching the department's 100% membership goal.

A special message was delivered by our guest of honor Rob Couture, National VFW Director of Communication & Public Affairs.

Elections for our new year leadership team were held and new officers joined the team which will take us into 2022-2023.

Meeting and greeting our comrades, seeing old friends and making new ones is always a big part of the convention.

Of course, great food, good fun and a great hospitality room rounded out the perfect Annual State Convention.





Veterans and Medicare: Debunking Myths

by Andy Zinkievich, Humana Veterans Engagement Executive

For military veterans who are approaching Medicare eligibility or are new to Medicare, it might be confusing to know the difference between your VA benefits and Medicare benefits. Let's set the record straight on three common misperceptions about veterans and Medicare.

Myth #1: My health coverage is covered by the VA, so I don't need Medicare.

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Health Care Benefits Overview 2022 Edition, Vol. 1, states on page 17: VA does not recommend Veterans cancel or decline coverage in Medicare (or other health care plans) solely because they are enrolled in VA health care. VA does not normally provide care for Veterans' dependents and family members. In addition, Veterans who elect to cancel their Medicare Part B coverage, would not be able to obtain coverage until January of the following year. There is no guarantee that in future years Congress will appropriate sufficient medical care funds for VA to provide care for all enrollment priority groups. This could leave Veterans, especially those enrolled in one of the lower-priority groups, with no access to VA health care coverage. For this reason, having a secondary source of coverage may be in the Veterans' best interest. For more information go to www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/va-health-care-and-other-insurance/.¹

Myth #2: There is no way to save money on health care plans.

There may be ways to save money when choosing a Medicare plan, such as considering the total value of the Medicare plan you select along with your health, medical and budget needs for the coming year.

Myth #3: I'm on my own.

Licensed insurance agents with Medicare expertise can help you select the coverage that best meets your needs. Let them know if you're eligible for VA health care or a TRICARE for Life member, and if your spouse is eligible for CHAMPVA health care, as those details will help determine the best options for you and your family.

Humana is here to support you through your journey.

There are helpful online resources and call centers available to help you make a confident decision.



For more information about Medicare, call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)** or TTY: **1-877-486-2048**, 24 hours a day/7 days a week, or visit **www.Medicare.gov**. You also can call Humana at 1-800-457-4708 (TTY: 711), 8 a.m.–8 p.m., Monday through Friday, or visit **www.HumanaMedicare.com**, or **www.humana.com/medicare/veterans**.

Humana®

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Humana is a Medicare Advantage [HMO, PPO, and PFFS] organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in any Humana plan depends on contract renewal. ¹US Department of Veteran Affairs Health Care Benefits Overview 2022 Edition, Vol. 1 pg. 17. www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/publications/IB_10-185_Health_Care_Overview_2022.pdf

TANK-YOU MARINES

VFW Post 9983, Holly Ridge, NC received a large gift from the USMC at Camp Lejeune. The pad was poured, the M60 tank delivered and placed on the grounds of the post where it will serve as a monument to those who served in WWII. A special thanks to the following: Post Members Dan McHugh, Jerime Schawants, and Mike Tate. Marines that assisted were GySgt Bennion, LCpl Rodriguez, SSgt Boillina, LCpl Connolly, LCpl Mills and LCpl Ramirez.

The tank was the last one displayed in front of Tank Battalion Headquarters at Camp Lejeune.



(Thanks to VFW Post Member Daniel McHugh for this contribution)

COOTIES



**Grand Commander
Helen Nelson**



**Grand Senior Vice Cdr
Tim Woods**



**Grand Junior Vice Cdr
Jeff Friar**



**Grand Quartermaster
Arthur Erhardt**



**Julia Stancil Warren
President (MOCA)**



**Grand Adjutant
Barbara Chance**



VFW's Military Order of the Cootie is known for comforting hospitalized Veterans and residents of Veterans' homes across the country. It is the Honor Degree within the VFW and members are comprised of its officers and leadership. Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep them smiling in Beds of White." Each year the cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. We like to bring many smiles while doing things a little backwards. We seek others like us to join and help us help them in their times of stress and anxiety.

KOREAN POW LAWRENCE (BUD) WILSON

Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez VFW Post 670 of Fayetteville, NC has a special local hero as a post member. Lawrence (Bud) Wilson celebrated his 93rd birthday and remembers well his days of service during the Korean War.

Bud joined the US Army Air Corps in January 1947. He was on leave in June 1950 when he was called up and that leave was cancelled due to the June 25th Korean Conflict. While serving in Korea he was captured by the Chinese and was forced marched day and night from May until October 1951. He was then turned over to other Chinese soldiers and remained in captivity until 1953. At one point he was on the run and hiding when the Chinese captured him and many times throughout his captivity he thought he was going to die.

Bud's ability to overcome these adversities along with his dedication and loyalty to his country, helped make it possible for his safe return. Bud is the recipient of the POW Medal, Purple Heart, Presidential Citation, Bronze Star, Korean Service Medal and Combat Medical Badge along with other awards. Bud resides in Raeford, NC. Thanks Bud! We wish you well!



Army Transportation Corps
Civilian Marine Personnel
16 Years Old



Commander Mike Baker presents a handcrafted
flag to Lawrence (Bud) Wilson.

FAYETTEVILLE VFW POST 6018 ACTIVITIES



VFW Post 6018 received the Community Service Award for the second year in a row. We committed our service to Veterans, family members of Veterans and the community. Thank you to all the members for your hard work and dedication.



100% membership streamer received early this year thanks to some dedicated members. We are over 1000 members strong and growing. Thank you to my Chief of Staff Jimmy Kirby and Past Senior Vice Commander for your assistance. VFW Post 6018 “Veterans Serving Veterans.”



Members of the Post participated in the 2nd North Carolina Roundtable that highlighted contribution of African Americans to NC. The major topic discussed was the generations of African Americans who have paved the way for today’s African American service members who now serve in some of the most predominate and respected offices within the US Armed Forces.



Taylor Long was presented the Veterans of Foreign Wars Award at the Post’s Dining-In/Military Ball held at Terry Stanford High School. Congratulations to all of the awardees. These Cadets are doing great things and should be proud of their accomplishments.

VFW POST 8466 BUDDY POPPY CAMPAIGN



Wake Forest Memorial VFW Post 8466, Wake Forest, NC held their Post's Buddy Poppy Campaign this May. Many Post members volunteered and many generous donations were made. The post has earned All-American Status and is involved in many community activities. The post was chartered in 1989 and currently has over 170 members from every branch of service. Some of the projects that they are involved in include The VA Durham Medical Center, VFW National Children's Home, the collecting of funds to support needy Veterans in the local area, representation on the Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation, and assisting the American Legion in various projects. The post has been recognized by both Department and National with the prestigious "All-State and "All-American" designations. And, of course be sure to look for our "Chuck Wagon" food truck at town and local events!



CORPORAL RODOLFO P. HERNANDEZ VFW POST 670

Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez VFW Post 670 Fayetteville, NC has been busy hosting and participating in the following events: The post hosted a dinner for 4 active-duty female soldiers to commemorate Women's History Month, celebrated the 93rd birthday of Korean POW Lawrence (Bud) Wilson, hosted Vietnam Veterans Lunch for 50 Vietnam Veterans assisted by the Post Auxiliary, hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for local children, participated in a Day of Service litter clean-up with 300 pounds of debris collected. A Special Thanks to all members and volunteers.



OOOPS...WE DID IT AGAIN



BECAUSE
YOU CAN'T
LEAD
FROM THE
REAR!

CONGRATULATIONS FOR ACHIEVING
ALL-AMERICAN POST STATUS AND 100%
MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

"BACK-TO-BACK"

CAPTAIN MARK GARNER VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
POST 7794 ELKIN, NC

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"SERVICE & HONOR"

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The balance of advertising revenues helps defray the cost of publication



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.

YOUR DONATION OF

\$20

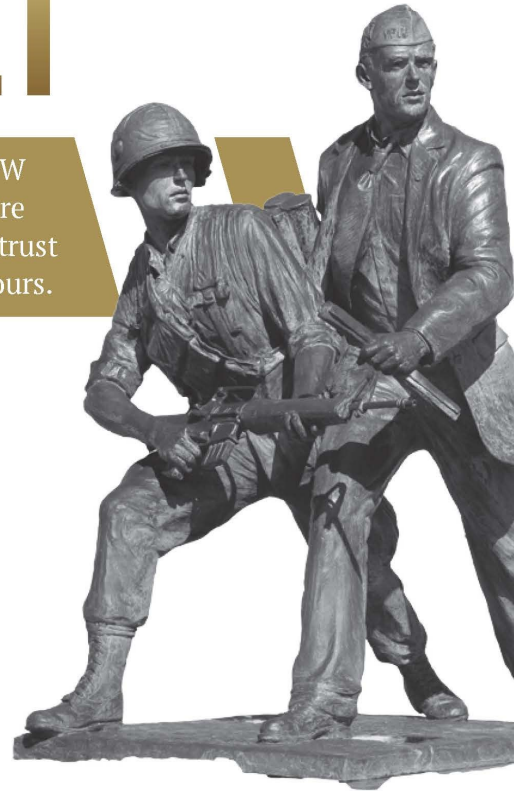
ENSURES THE VFW CAN

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.

61

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.

2.4 million+

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

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.

\$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.

\$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.

\$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

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org).

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Five Star Service!**

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And, you may save on medical costs while enjoying:

- Part B premium reduction for \$50 more in Social Security each month
- \$2,000 dental coverage annually for select services, plus exams, X-rays, cleanings, fillings and more
- Hearing benefit includes annual exam and \$699 copay for advanced hearing aids or \$999 copay for premium TruHearing® hearing aids
- Vision benefit includes annual exam, fitting and \$300 allowance for contact lenses or eyeglasses
- \$0 copay for SilverSneakers® fitness program

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North Carolina Market Office

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Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Humana® A more human way
to healthcare™

*Eligible veterans may choose any Humana Medicare Advantage plan, however Humana Honor® Medicare Advantage plan does not include prescription drug coverage which helps avoid possible conflicts with VA prescription drug benefits. Humana Honor plans are available to anyone eligible for Medicare.

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ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call **1-877-320-1235** (TTY: 711). **Español (Spanish):** ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al **1-877-320-1235** (TTY: 711). **繁體中文 (Chinese):** 注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 **1-877-320-1235** (TTY: 711)。