



## VFW Programs & Projects

Since its founding, VFW has been a staple in the community. Troop support, youth activities, volunteering and scholarship programs are a few of the ways VFW shines in the many communities and cities where Posts are located.

### Media Contacts:

*Jerry Newberry, VFW communications director, 816-968-1168, [jnewberry@vfw.org](mailto:jnewberry@vfw.org)*

*Joe Davis, Washington Office public affairs director, 202-608-8357, [jdavis@vfw.org](mailto:jdavis@vfw.org)*

### Scholarship Programs

- ***Voice of Democracy (VOD)***

This audio-essay competition annually awards more than \$2.5 million in scholarships to students in grades 9-12.

First-place winner receives \$30,000 scholarship.

- ***Patriot's Pen***

More than \$900,000 is awarded annually to students in grades 7-8 in this essay contest. First-place winner receives \$10,000 scholarship.

- ***Scout of the Year***

A \$5,000 scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding scout.

- ***Military Scholarship***

The VFW's Military Scholarship program provides 25 \$3,000 scholarships annually to VFW members who are currently serving in uniform or have been discharged within the 36 months before the December 31 deadline.

### Educational Outreach

- ***Echoes From the Wall***

VFW partnered with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to distribute a curriculum, Echoes From the Wall, to 25,000 public and private high schools and donated \$50,000 to the project.

- ***Educational Brochures***

VFW produces and distributes a flag brochure and poster as well as background material for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

- ***Veterans in the Classroom***

November is officially known as VFW Veterans in the Classroom Month. Members demonstrate flag etiquette and share their wartime experiences with America's youth.

### Youth Activities

Locally, VFW Posts sponsor various youth sporting programs such as baseball and ice hockey. In addition VFW Posts sponsor Boy Scout troops, Junior Olympics and Bike Safety.

### Community Volunteerism

Each year, VFW members volunteer more than 15 million hours of service to various community endeavors.

- ***Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service***

VFW was a charter member in 1946. On average, more than 5,000 VFW volunteers donate 1 million hours of service annually at VA medical facilities.

- ***March of Dimes***

VFW Posts raise an average of \$100,000 annually for March of Dimes (MOD).

### Troop Support

- ***Military Assistance Program*** (MAP) Emergency Financial Assistance Fund has distributed thousands of dollars to troops in need since August 2000.

- ***Adopt-a-Unit***

More than 1,000 units and ships have been adopted through VFW Posts. VFW National Headquarters adopted the USS Cole in 2002.

- ***Care Packages***

Posts across the country show their support of America's military by collecting and distributing much-needed personal items for troops.

- ***Operation Uplink***

Introduced in 1996, this free phone card program connects active-duty personnel and hospitalized veterans with family members. Millions of cards have been distributed to date.