



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**2014-2015**



*“The mission of the VFW Foundation is to support programs and services that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and the communities where they live.”*

## **FROM THE DESK OF JOHN A. BIEDRZYCKI, JR. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

In my dual capacity as Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and Chairman of the Board of the VFW Foundation, I am almost constantly traveling. Not only have I visited many U.S. military bases but I have personally talked with thousands of our military service personnel often in combat zones around the world.

What always impresses me in my conversations with these brave men and women in all branches of the service, is their unflinching patriotic dedication to duty. Without exception they are totally committed to ensuring that you and I are safe. Perhaps, that’s why our military personnel frequently endure incredible personal pain, staggering physical wounds and yes even the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for us all.

Since 1899, the VFW has always ensured that America’s military service personnel, veterans and their families will never be forgotten in their time of great physical, emotional or financial need.

### Isn’t that the least we can do?

Your generosity has enabled the VFW Foundation, the official 501(c)(3) charity of the VFW, the means to provide numerous beneficial programs and services that address the necessities of those who are now, or who have previously defended our wonderful nation. Whether it’s assisting military families with financial difficulties, providing aid for expenses such as rent and mortgage payments, utilities, vehicle repair, medical and food/basic aid; offering morale boosting “welcome home” or “sendoff” events for military units; counseling veterans on VA entitlement benefits; and so much more!

I am proud to report that the VFW Foundation has been a great steward of your donation dollars with the highest standards of competent transparency. I ask that you take a few moments to review the following *Annual Report & Summary of Accomplishments, 2014-2015*, which will give you a comprehensive overview of our operations and financial information.

Finally, I offer my personal gratitude for your past support and I kindly ask that if possible you remember us in the coming year so that we can continue to give forward with the greatest urgency and compassion to America’s troops, veterans and military families!

Sincerely,

John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.  
Chairman of the Board

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2013 - 2014)

## **John W. Stroud**

Chairman of the Board

Term of Office – 07/23/14 – 07/22/15

Commander-in-Chief, VFW

## **Robert B. Green**

Secretary-Treasurer

Term of Office – 04/30/12 – Present

Quartermaster General, VFW

## **Anthony J. Principi**

Board Member

Term of Office – 12/15/05 – 08/23/15

Re-elected to 3<sup>rd</sup> three-year term 08/23/12

Former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs

## **Michael DeRosa**

Board Member

Term of Office – 03/05/11 – 03/05/17

Re-elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term 08/21/14

Owner, Burger King Franchise

## **John E. Hamilton**

President

Term of Office – 07/24/13 – Present

Adjutant General, VFW

## **Janet A. Owens**

Board Member

Term of Office – 09/01/10 – Present

## **Gordon B. Logan**

Board Member

Term of Office – 10/06/11 – 8/21/17 Re-elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> three-year term 8/21/14

CEO/Founder, Sport Clips, Inc.

## **Joshua S. Halpern**

Board Member

Term of Office – 03/02/14 – 03/02/17

Vice President, Nat'l Retail Sales, On-Premise &

Military, Anheuser-Busch Inbev

## STAFF

### **Richard G. Freiburghouse**

Manager

### **Benjamin L. Vargas**

Assistant Manager, Special Projects

### **Rebecca L. Curtis**

Senior Program Coordinator

### **Jason T. Couch**

Grants Coordinator

## **MISSION (OUR SOLEMN PROMISE)**

To support programs and services that secure manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and the communities in which they live.

## **VISION**

To memorialize the past so as to never let America forget the personal sacrifices of those who have defended its freedoms; yet always looking forward to honor and provide for those among us who through their military service are dedicated to maintaining our security and democratic way of life.

## **ENSURING THAT U.S. TROOPS, THEIR FAMILIES AND VETERANS ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN!**

The VFW Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) charity of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, America's oldest and largest organization of combat veterans.

The VFW Foundation manages a wide variety of programs and services (most with a national geographic emphasis) at **no cost** and with **no VFW membership required** of those we serve. It is important to note that we receive no government funding. Thus, we depend on donations from corporations, foundations and individuals who believe as we do that our troops need to know that America *truly* cares.

The VFW Foundation continues to be the premier veterans service nonprofit organization. We are especially proud of the fact that our administrative costs are extremely low and our rating with charity watchdog groups such as Charity Navigator, GuideStar and the Better Business Bureau has consistently garnered highly positive ratings.

Our organization constantly adapts to the urgent-needs of U.S. troops, military families and veterans. Last fiscal year, we distributed over \$1.9 million to programs and services that directly met the needs of these deserving individuals.

The VFW and the VFW Foundation have cultivated ongoing relationships with companies such as Sport Clips, USAA, Burger King Franchise owners, and other patriotic corporations, many of which have undertaken fundraising and cause-marketing efforts on the behalf of the VFW.

Other sufficient revenue comes from grants (corporate and foundation), federated giving programs such as the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), matching corporate gifts, donor-advised funds, and of course through the generosity of individual donors.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 promises to be a further meaningful evolution in the history of our organization.

## **OUR SUPPORT TO VFW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:**

- Assist families with rent, mortgage, utilities, vehicle repair, medical expenses, food and other basic needs through the VFW Unmet Needs program. Since 2004, the VFW Foundation has assisted 3,628 families and awarded more than \$5 million in financial assistance.
- Allow troops to call home on a regular basis including all holidays such as Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, etc. Over 7.5 million connections have been made since 2006.
- Boost morale through "welcome home" or "sendoff" events for military units including VIP treatment at sporting/entertainment venues.
- Provide direct, pro bono assistance by the VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) officers to help veterans in their often difficult entitlement claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), actively pursuing compensation for servicereLATED injuries to veterans including PTSD and traumatic brain injury. Additionally, the VFW has helped 209,000 veterans recover an amazing \$5.9 billion in the last two years. The VFW pledges to meet with recently discharged troops from Afghanistan as they return home via group dispersals.

## **THE YEAR IN REVIEW**

- Partnered with various Burger King Franchisee associations in numerous states to raise more than \$550,000 for the VFW's Unmet Needs program.

- Received \$527,000 in contributions from Sport Clips Haircuts for the “Help A Hero” scholarship program to provide service members and veterans financial assistance needed to complete education goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.
- Received over \$237,000 in contributions from the Combined Federal Campaign and state/local campaigns.
- Received more than \$317,000 from other foundations.
- Assisted VFW Departments and Posts with fundraising that resulted in nearly \$84,000 for their local projects.
- Received more than \$47,000 in corporate matching gifts.
- Raised significant gifts to assist military families in financial emergencies through the VFW Unmet Needs program. It has now granted more than \$5 million since 2004 to 3,628 families.
- Reached out to Kansas City-area foundations and corporations for financial support to address the needs of local homeless and financially disadvantaged veterans.

	<b>9/1/2013 – 8/31/2014</b>		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support and revenue			
Cash contributions and gifts	\$ 1,451,989	\$ 1,443,452	\$ 2,895,441
	58,621		58,621
Contributions of services and goods for distribution	723,471		723,471
Interest, dividends, net realized gains and (losses)	6,700		6,700
Other revenue	1,516,175	(1,516,175)	
Net assets released from restrictions			

## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	2,615,876		2,615,876
Change in net assets	1,772,575	\$ (72,723)	1,699,852
Net assets, beginning of year	4,436,060	3,689,824	8,125,884
year	\$ 6,208,635	3,617,101	\$ 9,825,736
Total support and revenue	3,756,956	(72,723)	3,684,233
Expenses			
Program Services			
Veterans' service activities	1,957,534		1,957,534
Community service and public awareness	105,556		105,556
Support Services			
Management and general expenses	340,939		340,939
Fundraising activities	211,847		211,847
Changes in net assets before unrealized			
net investment gains			
	1,141,080	(72,723)	1,068,357
Unrealized net investment gains	631,495		631,495

## STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	FURNITURE, FIXTURES, AND EQUIPMENT, net of accumulated depreciation of \$50,116 and \$59,117 in 2014 and 2013, respectively
<b>ASSETS</b>	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	
INVESTMENTS, at fair value	
RECEIVABLES	
Pledges receivable	
Accounts receivable	PREPAID
Accrued interest receivable	EXPENSES
Total receivables	Total assets

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

LIABILITIES		<u>2,326</u>
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		
Payable to affiliate		
Charitable gift annuities		2,326
Total liabilities		<u>32,670</u>
		<u><u>\$ 10,594,177</u></u>
CONTINGENCIES		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted		\$ 694,905
Temporarily restricted		63,076
Total net assets		10,460
Total net liabilities and net assets		<u>768,441</u>
9/1/13 - 8/31/14		
		<u>\$ 558,499</u>
	9,981,895	
		6,208,635
		<u>3,617,101</u>
		<u>9,825,736</u>
		<u><u>\$ 10,594,177</u></u>
	18,787	



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