

SECTION 9

Awards & Citations

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National Buddy Poppy Awards

Department Commander & Ladies Auxiliary President

Over 1 Million Club - A National Award will be issued to those Departments that have purchased one million or more Buddy Poppies during the current program year.

Divisional Contest - A National Award will be issued to those Department Commanders and Ladies Auxiliary Presidents who lead each of the nine divisions at the end of the Memorial Day Campaign (June 30). Will be forwarded to Department Headquarters for presentation following National Convention.

Department Chairmen, VFW & Ladies Auxiliary

Outstanding Department Chairmen - A National Award will be presented to each Department Buddy Poppy Chairman of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary who has exceeded their previous year's total distribution along with their Department's three-year sales/campaign quota for the current program year ending June 30. Quotas will be established using the prior three-year sales/campaign history of each Department. Awarded automatically and mailed to Department Buddy Poppy Chairman.

Post Commander & Ladies Auxiliary President

Outstanding Post/Ladies Auxiliary - A National Award/Certificate will be issued to one Post and one Ladies Auxiliary in each Department that has the best Buddy Poppy Promotional/Public Awareness Program in their respective Departments.

Each Department Buddy Poppy Chairman will be asked to submit to the National Buddy Poppy Director the name of the outstanding Post and Ladies Auxiliary in his/her Department. An Award/Certificate honoring the Department winners will be prepared and mailed to the respective Department Headquarters for proper presentation to the winning Post and Ladies Auxiliary.



Guidelines

Department of Veterans Affairs VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Volunteer of the Year

OBJECTIVE: The NAC Volunteer of the Year Award Program allows the NAC to honor members who have given extraordinary service to our Nation's veterans.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Nominees for this award must participate in established VAVS assignments, serve as a volunteer and meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Volunteer with hospitalized veterans
- b. Volunteer with veterans at outpatient clinics
- c. Volunteer with veterans in nursing homes
- d. Volunteer with homeless veterans
- e. Volunteer with veterans and veterans groups in the community
- f. Host veterans' functions in the lodge, post, chapter, i.e. Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Day observances, etc. that qualify as a VAVS assignment
- g. Host veterans' functions outside the lodge, post, chapter, i.e. fishing trips, day at the races, sporting events, etc. that qualify as a VAVS assignment
- h. Visit veterans confined to their homes as a VAVS assignment
- i. Adopt-A-Veteran

Those eligible for the award are: NAC member organizations (such as the VFW) with emphasis on VAVS Representatives, Deputy Representatives, members who visit the VA medical centers, nursing homes, etc., or work at the lodge, post, or chapter veterans' functions either within or outside the lodge, post or chapter. Nominees must participate in established VAVS assignments and serve as a regularly scheduled volunteer. There will be two recipients per year; one male and one female.

Nominations must be submitted in narrative format with name and NAC organization in the upper left hand corner.

The narrative is not to exceed 500 words and must be submitted to the Director, National Veterans Service by December 31st of each year. VA staff making recommendations for this award must send the nomination for preliminary judging to the National Representative of the organization to which the nominee is a member. Failure to do so will invalidate the nomination.

The selection committee, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, will select the winners. The awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the NAC.

The male and female winner of the NAC Volunteer of the Year Award each receive an all-expense paid trip to the Annual VAVS National Advisory Committee meeting where they will be given an award.

Venues—VFW Awards

Public Venues

National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation – Recipient's state convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

National Firefighters Public Servant Citation – Recipient's state convention of the International Association of Fire Fighters (location and dates depend on state)

National EMT Public Servant Citation – Recipient's state convention of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (location and dates depend on state)

Voice of Democracy Awards – Recipient's High School

Patriot's Pen Award – Recipient's Junior High School

VFW National Convention

Eisenhower Award – Business Session

Hall of Fame Award – Business Session

Armed Forces Award – Business Session

Americanism Award – Business Session

Citizenship Award – Business Session

Commander-in-Chief's Gold Medal Award – Business Session

Aeronautic and Aerospace Award – Business Session

Ritual Competition – Immediately following the competition

Operation Uplink Check Presentations

Fred C. Hall Memorial Award – Business Session

National Outstanding Community Service Post – Private Luncheon

National Teacher's Awards – Opening Session

Media Award – Opening Session

Voice of Democracy/Legislative Meeting

Congressional Award – Opening Session or Legislative Reception

Department Presentations

– All at recipient's Dept. event

Buddy Poppy Award

Scout of the Year Award

Post Special Project

Fred C. Hall* Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project Award

Remember to attach this form to the inside of your record book. All entries should be submitted in record book form and be neatly organized and in chronological order.

If your Post, County Council, District or Department conducted a special project that you think should be nationally recognized by VFW National Headquarters, we would like to hear from you. To be considered you must include: a) a copy of the minutes of the VFW meeting at which the project was authorized; b) a signed statement from the Commander summarizing the impact of the project; c) pictures of the activity (limit to no more than 20 descriptive photos); d) newspaper clippings featuring the project; e) letters of congratulation/recognition; f) copies of budget and g) any other documentation that tells the story of how the project was planned, carried out, and how it impacted the community or area that the project served.

Points will be deducted for missing items. All documentation should be limited to one binder. Deadline for entries is April 30, 2013, Projects should be nominated within 12 months of the national judging.

VFW Post (and Auxiliary if applicable), County Council,
District or Department Name and Number

Address (city, state, zip)

Briefly describe the program:

What dates did this project cover?

(List "From" and "To")

List the name(s) of any other organization that assisted, contributed, or participated in this project.

How many people were directly helped by this project? _____

What is the population of the area that the project served? _____

Please make sure the following are included with the project record book:

Minutes of VFW meeting, expense statement, publicity and signed Commander's evaluation statement.

Please list your local media for news releases:

(List Radio, TV stations, or Newspaper and their Address)

By signing this document, the Department officer verifies they have screened the entry to make sure the nomination form is complete and there is evidence to support the nomination for award recognition.

Department Community Service Chairman

Department Adjutant

Submitted by (record book will be returned to this individual after judging)

Name

VFW Officer/Chairman Title

Address (city, state, zip)

Telephone #

Every Post Special Project receiving the award of excellence in the May judging will be entered in the Fred C. Hall Memorial Outstanding Post Special Project competition judging. The selected Post will receive a plaque at the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Convention and a minimum of \$1,000 service scholarship for community projects. Post Commander and spouse will receive airfare, three nights hotel accommodations and meals. When completed, mail this form and all material to your Department Headquarters for approval and the entry will be sent to: National Community Service Department, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64111.

**Mr. Hall, a VFW life member and member of many civic organizations, is credited with starting the VFW Post Insurance program.*

National Citation of Recognition

These citations are available to recognize Posts or individual Post Chairmen who have demonstrated a high level of service to their community by exhibiting an exemplary level of performance and achievement. Each citation will be signed by the National Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant General.

Department Chairmen are given sole responsibility for establishing the criteria their Department will use to qualify Posts or individual chairmen seeking these National Citations. Only VFW Department Chairmen (Youth, Safety, Community Activities, and Americanism) may submit the request form to the VFW National Programs Department.

Application forms, including all criteria and instructions, are sent to all Department Chairmen in February. The deadline date for requesting citations from the VFW National Programs Department at VFW National Headquarters is March 1 to enable processing in time for proper presentation at the Department Convention. All citations will be mailed directly to the Department Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please contact Nelda Clifton, Programs Coordinator, VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111, (816) 968-1148, nclifton@vfw.org

Volunteer Recognition

This program is designed to provide recognition and awards to VFW members who volunteer their time in service through outside organizations. Recognition is in the form of certificates and/or lapel pins which are given to volunteers who have completed the number of hours prescribed for those awards.

The individual in charge of a local community service organization such as a School, Youth Group, a Food Pantry or a Shelter will sign the validation form for the VFW or non-member VFW volunteer.

Note: Use the VFW National Hospital Volunteer Recognition Program to recognize hospital volunteer service. Contact your Department Hospital Chairman for more information.

National Community Service Department will provide the appropriate award for presentation to the volunteer upon receipt of a completed request form properly signed by the coordinator for the community service program, Post Commander and the State Adjutant. Awards will be made in accordance with the following schedule.

100 hours	certificate
150 hours	lapel pin
300 hours	lapel pin
500 hours	lapel pin and certificate
1,000 hours	lapel pin
2,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
3,000 hours	lapel pin
4,000 hours	lapel pin
5,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
6,000 hours	lapel pin
8,000 hours	lapel pin
9,000 hours	lapel pin
10,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
12,500 hours	lapel pin
15,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
17,500 hours	lapel pin
20,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
30,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
35,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate
40,000 hours	lapel pin and certificate

The award pin includes the Cross of Malta, the words "Community Service and VFW Volunteer" and the accumulated volunteer hours. The certificate will recognize the volunteer for attaining the appropriate cumulative hour level.

Pins are to be requested on the prescribed form from the National Community Service Department. Completed forms are to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant for signature. Forms are then forwarded to the Director at National Headquarters.

Eligibility

1. A VFW member in good standing performing volunteer service for a community service organization is eligible to receive an award
2. Such volunteer service must be given under the representation of the VFW.
3. Volunteer service rendered under sponsorship of any other organization is not recognized for this purpose; and

One of a Kind

Only one award of a kind will be furnished to each volunteer. For instance, a volunteer who has served 450 hours is not eligible to receive three 150-hour pins. Replacement awards may be furnished on request.

Non-Member Awards

Non-members volunteering under the sponsorship of the VFW may be issued a VFW pin and certificate (if applicable) once a year for the number of hours served.

Procedure

Using the form, the VFW Post Commander (if the award is for the Post Commander, the Sr. or Jr. Vice Commander should sign and submit the form) should obtain the number of hours served by the volunteer from the local community service organization along with a signed statement from the organization on their letterhead, explaining the type of volunteer work completed. The completed form and statements should be sent to National Headquarters, VFW Programs, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Volunteer Award

Request Form

This form will certify the following is entitled to a VFW National Community Service Volunteer Award for service as a VFW representative. A pin will be issued for his/her volunteer work with a community volunteer service organization. (For Hospital Volunteer Recognition Awards please contact your Department Hospital Chairman.)

Name: _____

Post # or Non-Member: (Indicate which) _____ Hours Served: _____

VFW/Aux. Membership No.: _____ Award Issued: (National Use Only) _____

*Awards for 1,000 hours or more may be the accumulation of volunteer service hours from up to three community service organizations.

Community Service Organization: _____ Phone # () _____

Signed by: _____ Date: _____

For 1,000 or more hours, add additional organizations below:

Community Service Organization: _____ Phone # () _____

Signed by: _____ Date: _____

Community Service Organization: _____ Phone # () _____

Signed by: _____ Date: _____

Post Commander's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dept. Adjutant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail Award To:

Post Commander's name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # must be filled in for Delivery: () _____

Department Adjutant, please forward to:

Community Service Department
VFW National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St.
Kansas City, MO 64111
Fax: (816) 968-1149

Awards & Citations

National awards authorized by the National Council of Administration on the recommendation of the national committee on awards and citations.

VFW Congressional Award (Glass Eagle and Citation) - Awarded to a sitting member of the Congress for outstanding service to the nation. Awarded at National Legislative Conference.

VFW News Media Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded to an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting. Awarded at National Convention.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Award (Citation) - Awarded to an individual for outstanding service in the field of law enforcement. Awarded at a law enforcement convention.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Award (Citation) - Awarded to an individual for outstanding service in the field of emergency service. Awarded at an EMT convention.

VFW National Firefighter Public Servant Award (Citation) - Awarded to an individual for outstanding service in the field of firefighting and emergency service. Awarded at a firefighter's convention.

VFW Americanism Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded to an individual for outstanding contributions to American principles. Awarded at National Convention.

VFW Armed Forces Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded to active or retired members of the Armed Forces for outstanding contributions to national security. Awarded at National Convention.

VFW Aeronautic and Aerospace Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded to a group or individual for accomplished development both scientifically and technologically. Awarded at National Convention.

VFW Dwight D. Eisenhower Distinguished Service Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded to an individual for contributions to the cause of American security, unity and world peace. Awarded at National Convention.

VFW Hall of Fame Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded to an individual for distinguished service rendered through outstanding contributions in the field of entertainment. Awarded at National Convention.

VFW James E. Van Zandt Citizenship Award (Gold Medal and Citation) - Awarded for outstanding service contributing to American citizenship. Awarded at National Convention.

National Awards Authorized by the Commander-in-Chief

Medal of Merit and Citation - Awarded by the Commander-in-Chief.

- **Gold** - To an individual in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the country, community and mankind on a national or international level.
- **Silver** - To an individual in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the country, community and mankind on a state level.

- **Bronze** - To an individual in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the country and mankind on a local or community level.

Distinguished Service Medal and Citation - Awarded by the Commander-in-Chief to VFW members for distinguished service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Certificate of Appreciation - Awarded by the Commander-in-Chief to individuals or organizations in recognition of outstanding service in keeping with the aims and ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Other National Awards

Golden Anniversary Award - Prepared from National Headquarters records for each Post as it approached its 50th anniversary and need not be requested. The certificate is forwarded to the Department Adjutant about a month in advance of the anniversary date.

Diamond Jubilee Award - Prepared from National Headquarters records for each Post as it approached its 75th anniversary and need not be requested. The certificate is forwarded to the Department Adjutant about a month in advance of the anniversary date.

Century Anniversary Award - Prepared from National Headquarters records for each Post as it approached its 100th anniversary and need not be requested. The certificate is forwarded to the Department Adjutant about a month in advance of the anniversary date.

Perpetual Life Member Charters - Prepared for Posts having 25 or more Life Members and need not be requested. No charge for the original but duplicates must be paid for at our cost of \$15.00 each. Charters are mailed to Department Headquarters for presentation, arrangements to be made by the Department.

Special Letters of Appreciation - A special letter of appreciation from the Commander-in-Chief can be prepared, on request, in unusual circumstances when an individual has performed exceptional services. The circumstances must be such as to warrant National recognition rather than Department or Post.

Miscellaneous Program Awards - Loyalty Day, Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Buddy Poppy, Community Service and other citations are available from the appropriate National Program Director as announced from time to time. Such awards are presented at the Department level.

Awards Available from National VFW Store

Each year in August new VFW Store catalogs are mailed to Commanders at all levels as well as Post Quartermasters. The following awards are examples of what is available. To see the rest of the awards, please see the VFW Store Catalog, or www.vfwstore.org.

Citizenship Medal - Awarded to citizens in recognition of their patriotic activities or outstanding qualities of citizenship. A smaller version is available for young people for excellence in essay contests, athletics, dramatics, scholarship and other community programs.

ROTC Citation and Medal - Citations and medals with ribbon bars are available for both Junior and Senior ROTC. These awards are designed to recognize outstanding students.

Patriotic Citizen Award Certificate - Presented to those individuals and companies who display the United States flag daily.

Americanism Certificates - Presented to Radio/TV Stations, Newspapers and individuals for Patriotic or Community Service.

Public Recognition - Both citations and plaques are available to honor Outstanding Paramedics, Fire Fighters and Law Enforcement Officers. A certificate is also available to recognize citizens for outstanding contributions to law enforcement or crime prevention.

Youth Leadership - Certificates are available for both Adult Leaders of Youth Programs and Organizations that perform outstanding youth work. Certificates for Outstanding Youths may also be ordered.

For other trophy, plaque or certificate awards, see your current VFW Store Catalog, or visit www.vfwstore.org.

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