

# VFW 1st District of California



# DISPATCH



@vfwmighty1st



VFW Department Commander John Low presenting a donation check from the Department of California to the Veterans Wolfpack Basketball Team.

**Membership as of**  
**01/31/2021**  
**District: 94.12%**  
**Auxiliary: 98.8%**

## Contents:

- 2: Commander & President Letters
- 3: Calendar of Important Dates
- 4-15: Reports from Officers & Chairs
- 16-21: Recent Events
- 22-23: Upcoming Events
- 24-26: Other Programs



### District 1 Commander Paula Jansen

Comrades,

As I was deciding what to write about this month I knew we need to talk about membership again. Although we have a couple other things to talk about membership is the hardest of our programs to work in this COVID

time. From National on down one of the main topics is taking care of our members. During the last District meeting, I talked about our membership list for the District and wanting to start roundtables with each Post. I only call them roundtables because I didn't have another name for them. On the Post Commanders discussion group on Facebook I posted asking if anyone else does these type of things and one Department called it an Acton Team. No matter what we call it we need to get some concentration on our membership list. Contacting members is key, if you can't contact them then how will they know what is happening in your post and what is happening with the VFW at all levels. Information needs to flow both ways. As we refine how we are going to accomplish this task updates will be put out, I expect it to evolve as we get through the first couple of Posts. We are looking for a 3<sup>rd</sup> member to the team, so if you are interested let me know. Thank you all for taking care of our greatest assets "our members".

This week I was the guest speaker on a tele-brief with the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services. We discussed the impact of the COVID pandemic on our Post. When asked what they could do to help, I told them donations to our relief funds is the best. So if any of you get calls or things in the mail that could be why.

As we head into the last month of this quarter, keep up the reporting on all the good things you are doing. At this point, we do not yet know how things might change for Department or National. Keep working our programs and supporting Veterans.

If your Post has not submitted to National for the \$2500 grant you should do that and for the Home Depot grant to make improvements to your Post home.

Please take care of each other.  
Stay Healthy and Safe

*Paula Jansen*  
Commander, Mighty 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Veterans – The Anchor of Our Nation

### District 1 President Rachel Luke

Brothers and Sisters,



I want to thank everyone who participated in making the Official visit of our Department President Robin Kuznik a huge success and the Posts and Auxiliaries that supported for the meals. We had a good time and she enjoyed her trip. She enjoyed the trips to the VA Hospital, the Wolfpack Basketball team. the special trip to see the wild bald eagles and the Sombrero party at Don Diego.

We have 4 months left in our year, please ensure that you get your programs paid and work on your membership. It is a tough year so think outside the box. Also get your reports in most Auxiliaries have a lot of white boxes on the blackout sheet.

Take care of yourself and keep yourself protected during these trying times.

We had a great District meeting that had a Past National President, Dist 4 and 5 Presidents and our Past Department and District Presidents in attendance. We draped the charter for Past Department President Emma Lopez.

Respectfully,

**Rachel Luke**  
District 1 Auxiliary President, 2020-2021  
Eagles are the Pure Spirit of our Veterans



# IMPORTANT DATES

## MARCH

- March 15: Scout of the Year applications due to District Chairman
- March 31: Entries for Young American Creative Art Contest due to Post Auxiliary

## APRIL

- April: Post Elections during April meetings
- April 7: Entries for Young American Creative Art Contest due to District 1 Chairman
- April 13: Wounded Marine Golf Tournament [www.asymca.org/wounded-marine-golf-tournament](http://www.asymca.org/wounded-marine-golf-tournament)
- April 15-18: North County Stand Down: 1237 Green Oak Road, Vista, CA 92081 [www.ncstanddown.org](http://www.ncstanddown.org)
- April 17th: District Homecoming for Commander & President

## MAY

- May 1st: Inputs due for 2021-2022 Roster book
- May 2nd: District meeting 1000, Post 2082 (elections/convention)  
May 2nd: Aux District meeting 0900, Post 5867  
District Convention follows the meeting.
- May 8th: Mass Installation



# VFW 2021 PRIORITY GOALS



## Support today's veterans and military

Help us ensure an adequate VA system will be there for the millions of current and future veterans.

When you visit your congressional representatives, please stress these are the issues we will be fighting for in the 117th Congress. These goals reflect the resolutions passed and supported by the men and women of the VFW and its Auxiliary. To find out who your congressional representatives are, visit [vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://vfw.org/ActionCorps).

## Play a role in the process

Ensure that these Priority Goals are enacted. Sign up today for the VFW's Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter at [vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://vfw.org/JoinActionCorps) or text "VFW" to 50457.



*Delivering the promise to our veterans, service members, and their families.*

**VFW Washington Office**  
 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
 Washington, D.C. 20002  
 Tel: 202.543.2239  
 Fax: 202.543.0961

**VFW National Headquarters**  
 406 W. 54th Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64111  
 816.756.3390  
[vfw.org](http://vfw.org)



## BUDGET

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Properly fund the POW/MIA full accounting mission.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

## HEALTH CARE

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide.
- Preserve the integrity of TRICARE.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Expand telehealth services.
- Expand nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.

## DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Extend Persian Gulf War disability compensation eligibility beyond 2021 and to Afghanistan-theater veterans, and reform the relevant Disability Benefits Questionnaire.
- Establish presumptive disability compensation benefits for hearing loss, tinnitus, TBI, blast survivors, and for health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation and include spouses' information on all headstones.
- Authorize more than one adaptive automotive grant for disabled veterans.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Transfer control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery to the National Cemetery Administration.

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, they must have access to:

- Timely and improved transition assistance, including access to programs after they leave military service.
- High-quality and sustainable education benefits.
- Strong employment and training programs.
- Small business development opportunities.
- Civilian credentials or academic credit for military training.
- Hiring preferences in the civil service and with large government contractors.
- National veterans treatment court advocates.

- Education and training in new and expanding career fields.
- Affordable housing and wraparound services to avoid homelessness.
- Improved character of discharge review and appeals procedures.

## MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

To maintain a quality comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD must:

- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life programs.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Eliminate sexual assaults in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.
- Improve stability and support for military families.

## NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND POW/MIA

To fully support service members and their mission to fight the war on terrorism, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world, Congress and DOD must:

- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Provide the necessary funding of at least five percent of GDP for the readiness, training, modernization, health care, and quality-of-life initiatives for the armed forces.
- Preserve the all-volunteer force.

# Legacy Life Membership

Members of the Mighty 1st District,

Being the District Commander, as the ones before me, we each choose a special project that is our focus throughout our year. Investing in each other is the best thing we can do to make sure our organization lives long into the future to continue to be the leading VSO organization. I chose the Legacy Life Member program as my special project. The goal is to increase our Legacy Life membership in the District, so that each Post had at least one or increased by one member. I am offering a \$500 prize (to the Post) that will be drawn on May 31 and each new or upgraded legacy member will get an entry for their Post. Attached is the brochure explaining the Legacy program, if you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Please consider upgrading your life membership to legacy. If you have already upgraded, Thank you for your support.

Posts with Legacy Members:  
 1512, 1774, 1924, 2111,  
 3783, 3787, 3788, 4630,  
 5477, 5867, 7766, 7907,  
 9578, 11387

Thank you for all that you do to make the Mighty 1st so successful.  
 Stay Healthy and Safe

Paula Jansen,  
 Commander  
 Mighty 1st District



**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

You must be a current Life member of the VFW, or if purchasing a Memorial Legacy, the veteran in whose name it is purchased must be a deceased member of the VFW.

**Instructions:**

- Complete the acceptance form.
- Check the level: Bronze, Silver or Gold. You may upgrade your Legacy level at any time by paying the difference to your desired level.
- If purchasing a Memorial Legacy, ensure that the name and member number are those of the veteran in whose name the Memorial Legacy is being purchased.
- Payment options: check, money order or credit card - payment in full.
- Installment option: Purchase an Installment Legacy Life Membership by making four equal payments. The first payment must accompany this form and be equal to 1/4 of the level being purchased (Bronze \$100, Silver \$200 and Gold \$300). You must provide a credit card number to make installment payments, and you acknowledge that the subsequent installment payments will be billed by National Headquarters quarterly. Memorial Legacies must use the payment in full option.
- Choose the endowment:
  - One-time endowment payment: Upon your death, the principal amount of your Legacy will be paid in equal amounts to your Post, Department and the National organization, as applicable.
  - Annual endowment: The Legacy level payment will continue annually after your death. Memorial Legacies must be purchased as an Annual Endowment.
- Enroll check: money order or credit card information for payment. If choosing the installment payment option, a credit card must be provided.
- Mail the acceptance form, along with a check, money order or credit card information to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters at the address located below.

**Member Incentives**

	Bronze \$400	Silver \$600	Gold \$1200
Plated Engraved Legacy Life Card*	•	•	•
Lapel Pin	•	•	•
Hat Pin	•	•	•
Distinctive VFW Store Line for Legacy Life members*	•	•	•
Framed Legacy Life membership Certificate	•	•	•
Member Recognition on Internet & Convention Program	•	•	•
Special Legacy Life Plaque	•	•	•
Hat Patch*	•	•	•
Personalized Brick at Centennial Plaza	•	•	•
VFW Store Discounts (for personal use only) *	5%	10%	15%
Increased Level of No-Cost AD&D Insurance *	\$2000	\$3500	\$5000
Annual Endowment: Post	\$6	\$12	\$18
Annual Endowment: Department	\$6	\$12	\$18

\* does not apply to Memorial Legacies



**LEAVE YOUR LEGACY**

Make a lasting gift to the VFW for generations to come.





NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Member Service Center  
 404 W. 54th Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64111 - 2778

Revised 7/2020

**Legacy Life membership enables VFW Life members to leave a lasting impression on our great organization.**

When you become a Legacy Life member, you are helping us strengthen the VFW - where **NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

Three prestigious levels of Legacy Life membership are available: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Each level offers generous benefits reserved exclusively for Legacy Life members.

Once your Legacy Life membership begins, an annual endowment in your name will be made to your Post, Department and the national organization. You will feel confident knowing your contributions to our organization are not only helping today's veterans but the veterans of tomorrow.

Simply fill out the attached acceptance form and return it to the address provided. For any questions regarding Legacy Life membership, please contact the VFW Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8367). We will gladly provide you with more information on this prestigious and rewarding membership.

*"Legacy Life membership seems like the next step in doing my duty to my fellow veterans."*



Whether we have served our country or have had a loved one in uniform, we all know the dedication and commitment that comes with military service.

Help us ensure that the tradition of selfless service lasts forever.

Leave a Legacy today.

**Honor a veteran with a Memorial Legacy.**

You can ensure that future generations know and remember the sacrifice and contributions of a veteran who has passed away by establishing a Memorial Legacy in their name.

At the same levels - Gold, Silver, or Bronze - you can establish a Memorial Legacy in the name of any deceased Annual or Life VFW member. An annual endowment will be made to the Post, Department, and the national organization in their memory.

In addition to establishing this endowment in their honor, you will receive a special commemorative plaque memorializing the veteran, to display and commemorate their life and their service to our great nation.

**LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE FORM**

PLEASE SELECT ONE:

Yes, I wish to become a Legacy Life Member of the VFW

I am purchasing a Memorial Legacy in the name of a deceased VFW Member.

MY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Small Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Legacy Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BRONZE \$400

SILVER \$600

GOLD \$1200

MEMBER NO. \_\_\_\_\_

POST NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER TYPE:  Annual  Life  Deceased

Endorsement:  None  Post  Department  National

Payment Method:  Check  Money Order  Credit Card

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

## March Chaplain's Report

I read an article by our National Chaplain that was published last month which briefly mentioned the Crusades and one particular group that fought in them the Knights of St. John. It seems that the Knights of St. John's full name was the Knights of the Order of the Hospital of St. John. And they had two pillars that stood out to me. Those two pillars were compassion and courage. It is these two principles that I want to focus on this month, and I will start with the later, courage.

Webster's Dictionary defines courage as, the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, and pain without fear. As you all know we are still in the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and it is looking once again like we have finally turning the corner and can see the light at the end of the tunnel which indicates that it is coming to a conclusion. Many of us have probably faced our worst fears during this whole ordeal, but we are still standing. I see courage as when we face up to our fears and own them, but we still summon up the energy to carry on with the plan of the day, week, or month. So thank you all for having the courage to continue to do what needed to be done for our veterans. There is a reason why I believe that courage goes hand in hand with compassion.

For those of you who took the time to minister and care for the sick, the needy, and the others who needed it, I believe that God has blessed you with the most important gift of all, the gift of compassion for your fellow man or woman. In our Chaplain's Workshop I tell VFW Chaplains all of the time that having a compassionate heart is a hallmark of a Chaplain. In 1 Kings 8:50 the Holy Bible teaches us that we are to show compassion even to those who may not have showed it to us in the past. I believe that takes some courage, as well. So let us continue to care for the sick, the needy, and the afflicted just as the Knights of St. John did and just like it states in our VFW Opening Prayer. Carry on.



**Blessings Everyone,  
Chaplain James**

## March Chaplain's Report

**Sympathy card** mailed to: Margaret Matthews, Auxiliary # 1774, who recently lost her husband Gary Matthews  
**Get Well Prayers and wishes** sent to: Candy Cowell, Auxiliary # 5867, hospitalized with broken pelvis.

### Deadline Reminder:

The last date to submit your list of deceased members for this past year to be listed in the Memorial Book, is April 5. Please email me your printed list with the full name, date of death and Auxiliary # so their name will appear in the Memorial book as well as being read (if we are allowed to have one), at the Memorial Ceremony scheduled on Sunday May 2.

Dear God,

We pray for those who have lost a loved one, please comfort them in their grief. Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Faithfully

**Diana Kulhanek**  
619-206-7828



# REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS



## LEGISLATIVE AND YOUTH REPORTS

### Legislative

I am happy to report that we are 100% as a District in our reports! Please continue to advocate for our Veterans and Stay on top of current VFW legislative priorities and initiatives through your VFW Action Corps email subscription. You will receive the VFW Action Corps Weekly in your inbox every week which will keep you up-to-date on the most recent legislative initiatives affecting veterans. If you are not yet a member, now is the time to Join the VFW Action Corps!



Loyally,

Diana Kulhanek

### Youth Activities Program

#### Honoring Our Veterans

Did you know March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day? This day is to honor those who served and gave the ultimate sacrifice during the longest conflict in U.S. history – the Vietnam War. By including youth, you will be able to educate them about this war and help them understand why the Auxiliary does what we do. When you make things fun and exciting, they will want to come back and participate in other activities sponsored by the Auxiliary.



#### There's Still Time!

You still have time to promote the Illustrating America and Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! contests. Visit our [resources page](#) for contest rules, eligibility requirements and entry forms.

[Illustrating America](#)

[Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!](#)

Your local Auxiliary must receive the entries for both contests by March 31, 2021. Your Department must receive the entries by April 15, 2021. I can't wait to see – and hear – the creativity of our youth. Please continue **supporting** our youth and **encouraging and motivating** everyone to keep working our Programs during this challenging time.



Loyally,

Diana Kulhanek,

dirude@yahoo.com 619-206-7828



# REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

## CHIEF OF STAFF REPORT

Comrades,

As I said in last month's issue, election season is upon us. Do yourself and your Post/Ship a favor and become familiar with the 2020 Podium Edition, By-Laws beginning on page 15, **Sec. 215-Eligibility to Office** through **Sec. 218-Officers and Chairmen, Duties and Obligation** and **Sec. 221-Voting**. Also follow the information in the Manual of Procedure beginning on page 70 with the same Sections.

Will a District wide Mass Installation take place? That decision will be broadcast by the District Commander Paula Jansen after this article is broadcast. Should the Mass Installation not happen, refer to **Sec. 217** as stated above. It is important that you adhere to subsection **Installation of Officers** .... "select the installing officer who holds or has held a rank at least as high as that of Post Commander." .....

So please continue doing the VFW's good works!  
Borrowing from the Navy: "*Non sibi sed patriae*" (Not self but country)

In Comradeship,

PDC Douglas Carrington  
D1 Chief of Staff, 2020-2021  
[slainte1861@att.net](mailto:slainte1861@att.net)



## A PROGRAM DASHBOARD REMINDER

The new Program Dashboard is live on the Department website. This dashboard will show updates as the Department puts things in or as we submit reports.

I can answer most questions, so please direct them to me first.

I have asked about a print function.

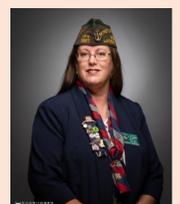
You can access it via [www.vfwca.org](http://www.vfwca.org)

Login to the members only section with your member number and last name.

Click Program Dashboard and it will come up.

Thank you for all you do.

**Paula**



# REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

## “Auxiliary Community Outreach”

*National's new program for Auxiliaries 2020-2021*

Isn't it wonderful to be in on the ground floor of National's New 'Auxiliary Community Outreach' program... where we Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Volunteers provide our valuable TIME to assist other organizations and groups with their events and projects... and proudly wear an Auxiliary apparel item when we do that, letting them know who we are and the good Volunteering work we do for others.

The program began with '2 required motions and votes' for each auxiliary to first **IMPLEMENT** this new National Program... then the motion and vote to **AUTHORIZE** all our auxiliary members to act as REPRESENTATIVES of our individual auxiliary when we VOLUNTEER doing or helping at a particular place or event... such as... **PARTICIPATING** in Clean Up events (like at the beach after a holiday, a community park, the highway, after a storm or vandalism) ... in event needs for rescue mission, homeless shelters, soup kitchens... 'WALKS' benefitting other organizations (e.g. for Cancer, Alzheimer's, MS, Heart Assoc., or Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)... or possibly Assisting at local police and firefighters events.

You don't even need to conger up a project to do... just look at the combined list of ideas and suggestions from the Department Chairman and National Ambassador that is already prepared to make it so much easier for you get some activity going. Of course, remember that the volunteering we do in this program is for those groups and events Outside Our Already Established VFW and VFW-Auxiliary 'Core' Programs.

That list of ideas is in the December 2020 issue, page 10, of the VFW District One DISPATCH Newsletter published once a month on the VFW District website (or email me and ask for a copy of that list). That is where information for this 'OUTREACH' program is waiting for you.

Also remember, both of these required motions are to be recorded in the secretary's meeting minutes. Then, of course, the job's not done until the paperwork is done, you've heard that one before AND... that's the 3rd step, remembering to prepare and write out the official report form and send it to the District and Department Chairmen. When reporting, it is the NUMBER OF AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS and THEIR VOLUNTEERED HOURS that is reported. (There is no money or miles involved in this program.)

If help with the WORDING for the report is needed, it is available on the Department webpage Chairman's 'JULY Promotion'.

**THANK YOU & CHEERS** to the ten auxiliaries who already got their feet wet and are on the Blackout Sheet T.E.A.M., as of Feb.15 they are: **1512, 1513, 2242, 3783, 3787, 3788, 3795, 5867, 7041, and 9578**. It certainly is an honor to be the first District Chairman for this new program and get things rolling along.

Continue doing whatever you can to facilitate this program, maybe even step up to a new project too. **The success of this program depends on all of us.**



**Bea Brunner**, District 1 Chairman  
[BeAvolunteer@hotmail.com](mailto:BeAvolunteer@hotmail.com) or phone (619) 466-2132.

**To the District One VFW and Auxiliary family:**

Thank You for the sympathy cards and greetings you sent to Joe Brunner (VFW Post 2082) in remembrance for his younger son, Clarence Brunner who passed away January 28, while living in Mississippi with his older brother. Clarence was 59, sadly on dialysis, served 13 years in the U.S. Navy, and was a Life Member of Encanto VFW Post 1512. We appreciate your remembrance.

Joe & Bea Brunner.

# REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS

## Stand Down Report

Comrades and Family,

Thank you for generously supporting the North County Veterans Stand Down! I look forward to seeing you at the next Stand Down scheduled for April 15-18, 2021 at Green Oak Ranch in Vista. NCVSD is working with County health officials to make this event as similar to past events as possible, but with COVID-19 protocols in place. There will be medical, dental, and vision care; Homeless Court and various legal services; housing and employment, clothing, and even overnight stays in the cabins!

Check out this short, 3-minute video filmed at last year's event: <https://vimeo.com/411299098/2c23e0118e>

NCVSD is run by volunteers and we need YOU to make this happen! Sign up as a volunteer at [ncstanddown.org](http://ncstanddown.org). If you know any veteran or their family member who needs help, please encourage them to sign up as a Guest. Please pass the word about this event to all the veterans you know. Thank you for supporting NCVSD.

Matt Foster

Stand Down Chairman

760-208-7246

[mjfoster58@gmail.com](mailto:mjfoster58@gmail.com)



Editor's Note: Several readers asked me to pass on these useful veteran & VFW links:

### California Veteran Magazine Link

[https://issuu.com/vfwca/docs/vfwca\\_spring\\_2021\\_web](https://issuu.com/vfwca/docs/vfwca_spring_2021_web)

### Useful Websites & Facebook Pages:

Auxiliary 9327 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lavfw9327/>

Mighty 1st Dist. & Aux. Website <https://vfwcadist1.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfwmighty1st/>

VFW Auxiliary Department of CA Website: <http://vfwauxca.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxca/>

VFW Auxiliary National Organization Website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary/>

Benefits: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/member-benefits/>

Paige Dilione

Secretary/Treasurer

VFW Auxiliary 9327

# Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Each year, more than 4,000 high school students from across the country enter the VFW Auxiliary's **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**. The first-place winner from each Department (state) advances to National judging and competes for national awards totaling \$31,500.

Students in grades 9-12 as of the March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.

- Student must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate, but the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, GED and adult education students, or national winners of previous Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are ineligible.
- Two- and three-dimensional art entries are accepted.
- Digital art, photography and jewelry are NOT ACCEPTED.

**Visit our website** to see the complete list of eligibility requirements and contest rules, updated helpful hints and to see the **2019-2020 state winners** or **all previous first-place national winners**.

## **Deadlines:**

- Entries received by local VFW Auxiliary - March 31
- Entries received by District One Chairman - April 7
- Entries received by Department (state) - April 15
- Entries received by National Headquarters - May 5

## **National Awards:**

- **First Place:** \$15,000 scholarship
- **Second Place:** \$7,500 scholarship
- **Third Place:** \$3,500 scholarship
- **Fourth-Fifth Place:** \$1,500 scholarship
- **Sixth-Tenth Place:** \$500 scholarship



Get the word out in your community about this wonderful scholarship contest! Visit the Scholarships section on the **Program & Publicity Resources page** of the VFW Auxiliary website for a printer-friendly contest application, fillable media release, informational flyer and more!

Please remember to report all that you do. One report is to be mailed to the Department and District Scholarships Chairmen and keep one your records.

Stay safe and well!

Happy Holidays!

Oneita Billings  
District One Scholarships Chairman  
[oneita.billings@gmail.com](mailto:oneita.billings@gmail.com)



## REPORTS FROM OFFICERS & CHAIRPERSONS



The [Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest](#) has been sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. This scholarship continues to recognize high school-aged students whose art expresses patriotism. Nationwide, nearly 4,000 entries are submitted annually. To promote participation, herein are some of the eligibility requirements.

- Applicants must be students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in a public, private, or parochial high school or home study program within the United States, its territories and possessions; or dependents of United States military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Students must be a United States citizen or national.
- Student is not required to be related to a VFW or Auxiliary member to participate; however, the student must attend school in the same state as the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary.
- Application entries must be completed during the current school year.
- The application can be found at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships-patriotic-art-contest/> for additional information.
- Attach a completed Patriotic Art Contest application to the back of the entry with a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less).

**Deadline Dates:** Student entries should be received at the local VFW Auxiliary by **March 31, 2021**. 1st place winner from your Auxiliary must be received to the District Chairman, Oneita Billings no later than **Monday, April 5, 2021** by either mail or deliver to her residence.

If you have any questions, please let me know by email.

Loyally,

**Oneita Billings, District Scholarships Chairman**

760-839-5324, [Oneita.billings@gmail.com](mailto:Oneita.billings@gmail.com)

1800 South Maple St., #114, Escondido, CA 92025





Department of California  
**“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children**



La Verne Wilson, Chairman

February 2021

**Greetings District Officers, Auxiliary Officers, Chairmen and Members**, thank you for all your hard work and devotion to the Department of California “Buddy”® Poppy Contest, Centerpieces. Working together we made it a successful and fun event on Zoom and will always be remembered.

Due to COVID-19, the judging took place on January 21 by way of Zoom and winners were announced at the Council of Administration, January 22, 2021, during the Chairman's portion of the meeting. All ten entries were beautiful and inspiring and have been invited to enter in the National “Buddy”® Poppy Contest. **Thank you**, President Robyn Kuznik and Treasurer Marilyn Peck for all of your support to make this happen. The Judges were Past Department Presidents Marilyn Leisure, Mary Ryser and Department Chaplain Mary Anne Kreutz, **Thank You**, great job. To view all entries, visit my January Blog on the Department Website under Chairmen Reports.



First place was District 12 - Auxiliary 9243  
 ‘Bud E. Poppy loves Truckin’ for Veterans’.

Second place was District 13 – Aux. 8327  
 “Inspiration for the Veterans Hot Line”.

Third place District 1 – Auxiliary 5867  
 Theme: “Honoring Those Lost”.

**Buddy Poppy Displays at National Convention**

**There are Three Categories:**

- **One: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign**
- **Two: Memorial or Inspirational**
- **Three: Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies**

**Display must contain at least ONE Poppy in its original form and color with the label attached.**

The Department Adjutant will have to notify the Programs Director in writing, by June 30, 2021 of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category.

**Read the brief “Buddy”® Poppy Chairman’s Manual and learn tips for a successful poppy drive and the rules for the “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest held at National Convention.**

**National Home for Children Life Membership:** One of my goals this year, is promoting Post and Auxiliaries to become Life Members. The one-time cost of \$50.00 includes a membership certificate which helps to supports the National Home and a wallet card, a Life Member pin. You can vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation. All VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are eligible to become a Life member of the National Home.

The Post or Auxiliary that promotes and sells the most Life Memberships will receive a special gift from me (La Verne Wilson) at the Zoom Convention or by mail.

**La Verne Wilson, Department Chairman...**

**National Home for Children Updates: The Board of Trustees met on February 3rd via zoom. Renee Fulk, VFW National Home Trustee.**

**Finances** - overall, income is down. Due to COVID-19 many Post and Auxiliary closures have limited fundraising abilities; however, individual donors continue their support. Expenses are down as well.

**Program** - during the period October 1 to December 31, 2020, there were 126 residents on campus (50 parents and 76 children). There were 29 assisted through the helpline. Please remember this is transitional housing and the board of trustees is provided with the current residential occupancy rates. It is important to make sure VFW and Auxiliary members are sharing the helpline number with veteran families in your communities as well as other Veteran Service Organizations, Service Officers, patients at VA hospitals, adopted military units, FROs and legislators so they can become a resource for the family and the National home. The number is 800-313-4200. If your Posts and Auxiliaries want to make donations other than sending a check, please go to Amazon Smiles wish list.

**Marketing and Development** - Please reach out to your community business and corporations about supporting the National Home and let me know if there is any interest in corporate sponsorships. The Family Support Services Fund has been established and is doing well. This fund helps the families inside the house and the house fund supports the brick and mortar of the building. The home's Facebook page grew by almost 1.000 new followers and we hope it will continue to grow; encourage your members to follow.

**Please share with your members** - Become a Home Front Hero through the convenience of our Monthly Giving program. Monthly giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to support the VFW National Home for Children.

**How it works:** You determine the amount of your monthly donation. You choose to use your credit card, debit card or checking/savings account. Close to the first of each month, we deduct your gift from the card or account you specify. Each January, we send you an annual giving statement for tax purposes. You can call 866-483-9642 or email us to increase, decrease or suspend your gift at any time.

**Renee Fulk, Trustee District 12**

## **“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home: Get Creative / 5 Ways to Donate**

It is a new year, but challenges of the last year remain. Our veterans have been heavily impacted by this pandemic and we need to ensure their needs are met. As you get back into your routine, please continue to let those in your community know the challenges veterans face. Ways this can be done include hosting poppy drives and fundraisers to help restore and increase Relief Funds.

Another way is to get crafty and create poppy displays for specific patriotic holidays (e.g., Presidents Day, Flag Day, Constitution Day, etc.). One Department Chairman had Auxiliaries create poppy displays for POW/MIA Day. The Auxiliaries took photos of the displays and sent the photos to the Department Chairman. The Chairman had a panel of judges who reviewed the photos and awarded Auxiliaries for the best display that depicted POW/MIA.

**Note:** The VFW decides how poppy displays will be judged on the National level and suggest Department contests are set up to correspond with the categories and rules. Read the brief **“Buddy”® Poppy Chairman’s Manual** and learn tips for a successful poppy drive and the rules for the “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest held at National Convention.

Earlier this month the **VFW National Home for Children** celebrated 96 years of helping our nation’s veteran and military families. I remember the first time I saw a video about the National Home and the impact they have on the veterans and their families who live there. The families expressed feelings of safety and security that being at the National Home gave them. Our donations help make those feelings possible.

Ways to donate include:

- **Become a Life Member** of the VFW National Home: \$50.00
- **Purchase a Tribute Brick** in honor or memory of someone: \$100.00.
- **Become a Home Front Hero** through monthly giving: You determine the amount of your monthly donation.
- Purchase items from the **National Home’s Amazon Wish List**.
- **Support the National Home while you shop on Amazon** with AmazonSmile.

Select the National Home as your AmazonSmile charity of choice and AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to the National Home.

My Auxiliary and Department, as well as yours, has placed a strong focus on membership this year. It has brought to light how many members are never contacted by their Auxiliaries until it is time for dues payment. I encourage you to contact at least one member a month by phone, email or text and check in with them. See if they are doing well, if they need help in any way and let them know what’s going on with the Auxiliary. The greatest things about the Auxiliary are the friends we make, and the lives of veterans, service members and their families who we impact.

I wish everyone a great year and thank you for keeping the “Buddy”® Poppy and VFW National Home for Children at the forefront of the minds of our members and our communities.

**Dana Fogner**

**2020-2021 National “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador**

# RECENT EVENTS

Recently District 1 had the official visit by the Department Commander John Lowe and the Department President Robin Kuznik.

Rachel & I wanted to tell him thank you for visiting and we hope you enjoyed it. The picture on the top-left is of the gift District 1 gave to the Commander and President.

Thank you to all the post and auxiliaries who made made things happen.

Paula Jansen  
D1 Commander



Gift to Dept. Commander and President



Dept. Commander presents a check to the Veterans Basketball Team, the Wolf Pack



The Welcome Home Dinner was Sold Out!



Left: Happy Birthday to Department President Robyn!

Right: The Department President is treated to a San Diego Harbor Cruise.



Dept. President Robyn and D1 President Rachel get a look at an eagle during a local tour. Look for the eagle also in the top-center of the center photo.



# RECENT EVENTS



**Post 2111 Hosts a B-B-Q dinner for the Department Commander (Center photo)**

---



**Enjoying Lillian's Soul Food at Post 4630**



**D1 President Rachel Luke presents a check to the Veterans Wolfpack Basketball Team.**



**Left: Post 4630 celebrates Black History Month**



**Center: Placing Holiday flags on Main Street**



**Right: A VA Hospital visit**

# 1st District Meeting



# RECENT EVENTS



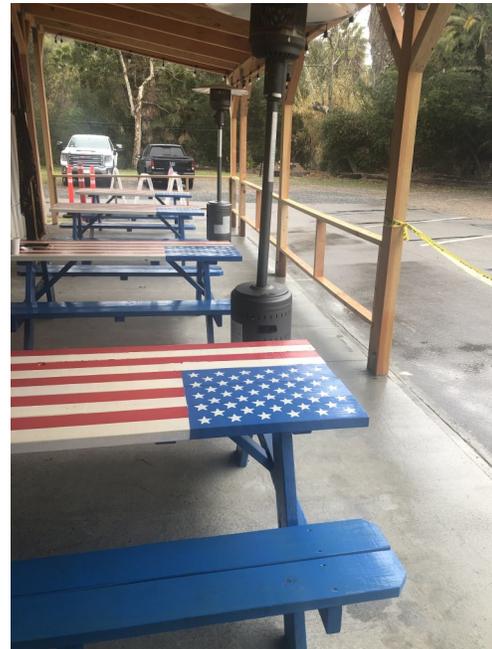
Post 7420 Sombrero Ceremony with Department Commander Lowe and Department President Kuznik



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the new patio at Post 7907, possible in part due to a Department of California Grant



Post 5867 participates in a Help Heal Vets Distribution with Department Commander Lowe along with Help Heal Vets Rep. Yvette and District Commander Jansen and Department Jr. Vice Marty Yingling



Post 7907 is proud of their new patio!

# RECENT EVENTS

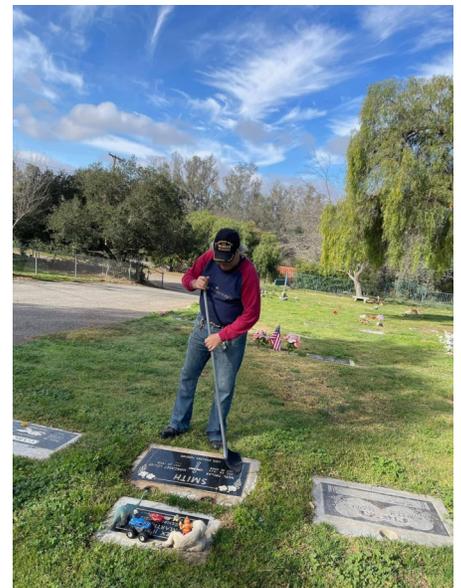


Post 1512 Buddy Poppy Drive



Post 1513 Buddy Poppy Drive

## Post 1513 and the Riders Group Clean Grave Sites





My name is Paige Dilione, I am the Secretary/Treasurer for VFW Auxiliary Post 9327 of Santee. I would like to take a moment and toot the horn of my Auxiliary President – Beatrice Ruth Miller. Most of you know her as Ruth, and she allows her close friends to call her Ruthie.

COVID-19 restrictions have crippled our Post, and we are staying afloat through grants, donations and our members that are slowly coming back.

Ruth refuses to give up. She is at the Post every Thursday from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. collecting recycling. Ruth also donated items to make gift baskets for raffles. Ruth has even taken over the Canteen and donated all her tips. She buys tickets to every fundraiser and always contributes to the other organizations who reside in our house. She stops in at least every day that the Post is open, if to only sign the book and purchase a ginger ale. On top of supporting our Post, you can find her cleaning our Post.



Ruth puts in a lot of volunteer hours for her Post, Auxiliary and her community. Ruth was presented with the President’s Volunteer Service Award in 2020, which he proudly wears! Ruth is also the Co-President of M.A.R.A. (Maine Avenue Revitalization Association) in Lakeside. You can catch Ruth out picking up trash, landscaping and weed whacking all around Lakeside – she calls them drive byes. Ruth is self-employed (Ruthless Creations), so when she is volunteering – she isn’t working. Ruth has helped many homeless and out of work souls. If you are hungry and able to work – she will help find you work!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY VFW POST 9578 AUXILIARY BAKE SALE



WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 2021

DROP OFF BAKED ITEMS AT THE POST - START AT 2PM

TIME TO BUY: 4PM-6PM

Questions?  
Sheilajo9578@cox.net  
619-990-0536



COME SUPPORT THE AUXILIARY FUND RAISER!!  
PLENTY OF BAKED SWEETS/TREATS/GOODIES!



**Wounded Marine Golf Tournament**  
April 13, 2021 at 7:00AM



### About The Event

The Wounded Marine Golf Classic raises funds every year for our Wounded, Injured, and ill Programs at Naval Medical Center. Over \$700,000 has been raised in the tournament's 13-year history.

This best ball, shotgun start, charity golf tournament features a closest to the pin contest, longest drive, mulligans, fantastic raffle items and more. All proceeds go to support the military personnel at the Naval Medical Center San Diego through the Wounded, Injured, and Ill Program of the Armed Services YMCA San Diego. In the past Sycuan Golf Resort has donated two golf courses, golf carts, and more to support this event.



### Date

April 13, 2021  
7AM Sign-In  
8AM Shotgun Start  
1PM Lunch & Awards Ceremonies

### Location

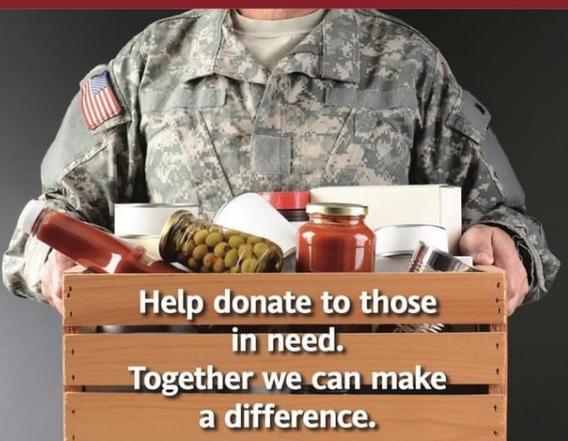
Sycuan  
3007 Dehesa Road  
El Cajon, CA 92019



<https://www.asymca.org/wounded-marine-golf-tournament>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**CALIFORNIA VFW & VFW AUXILIARY**  
**FOOD BANK DRIVE**  
 MARCH 2021



**Help donate to those in need. Together we can make a difference.**

Join VFW State Commander John G. Lowe and VFW State President Robyn Kuznik in supporting your local food banks during the month of March.

Contact your local food bank to see how you can help and be sure to report your activity.



For more information, please contact 916-509-8712.

**Stand Down**  
 April 15-18

BENEFITS DMV  
 GLASSES IRS ASSISTANCE  
 FAMILY LAW VA CLAIMS  
 PHONES HOUSING  
 DENTAL



**NCVSD**  
 NORTH COUNTY VETERANS STAND DOWN

The North County Veterans Stand Down is a four-day event that enables veterans in need, to receive much-needed services in a safe, friendly, drug-free and secure environment.

It is held at Green Oak Ranch in Vista, California every year.

**1237 Green Oak Rd. Vista, CA 92081**  
[www.ncstanddown.org](http://www.ncstanddown.org)

Contact: Phone 866-535-2038 E-mail: [info@ncvsd.org](mailto:info@ncvsd.org)  
 Covid-19 protocols will be in place

**DONATE GLASSES HERE**



Encanto VFW Auxiliary 1512  
 Community Outreach Program

**RECYCLE YOUR UNWANTED GLASSES!**  
 Men, Women & Children



The Auxiliary is collecting used Prescription, Reading & Sunglass to be donated to the Lion's Club Recycle Program.

**Help give the gift of sight**

During our current unhealthy times, please sanitizer items and place in a zip lock bag With your name, address & phone number so we can stay within the Covid 19 guidelines

**Donation drop off Location:**  
 VFW Post 1512 during the following date & times during our takeout meals:  
 Friday 5 pm - 7 pm  
 Sunday 9 am - 12 pm  
 While the canteen is closed for business  
 The Auxiliary will collect the eyeglasses through March 31, 2021

Thank you for your continuing support



Encanto VFW Auxiliary 1512  
 6873 Federal Blvd, Lemon Grove Ca. 91945 - (619-853-6873)  
 For more information, please contact Auxiliary Chairman, Bea Brunner 619-466-2132

**HELP HEAL VETS**  
 CRAFT THERAPY KITS  
 Free For All Veterans!

For pick up/drop off dates and times contact  
 Yvette Macy. Workshops are pending. 619-208-2306

East County Community Base Ctr  
 Lakeside VFW Post 5867

North County Community Base Ctr  
 San Marcos VA Medical Center

**BENEFITS:**

- \* Restore coordination
- \* Improve concentration
- \* Help with PTSD
- \* Improve confidence
- \* Learn a new art form

Kits made by veterans for veterans. Leather, wood, jewelry, and more!

At home delivery and inquiries direct to:  
 Yvette Macy  
[sandiego@healvets.org](mailto:sandiego@healvets.org)



Facebook Instagram Twitter

Made with PosterMyWall.com

# HELP HEAL VETS



## Help Heal Veterans

### Therapeutic Craft Kits

---

#### Military and Veteran Patient Home Rehabilitation (PHR) Program Application to Participate

##### Purpose of Program

To provide products and services to all military and veteran patients, not only in a hospital setting, but within their home or community setting as well.

##### Goal

To provide veteran and military patients the opportunity to experience Heal Vets' arts and crafts as a leisure therapeutic activity during their rehabilitation and recovery of physical or mental illnesses, and injuries while recuperating within or out of a medical facility. Additionally, to provide, or help provide a craft workshop in a community that would give the patients the opportunity to receive assistance to embellish their finished product.

##### Eligibility

Any veteran and military patient that can provide accredited proof of:

1. U.S. veteran or military status with a residence in the U.S.;
2. Patient status (proof of treatment at a medical facility\* within the last 6 months); or
3. Heal Vets employee has knowledge of the applicant is in fact a veteran or military patient as described above. (The employee may sign a statement to that effect).

\*Definition: Any commercial or federal medical facility where treatment was received from an accredited clinician.

##### How to Apply

Submit the following information and proof of eligibility as described above. The information provided is **strictly confidential** and will not leave the Heal Vets organization for any reason.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch and Year of Service

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby request to participate in the PHR Program provided by Help Heal Veterans. I understand that Heal Vets will provide me with products free of charge and that I will use these products to help in my rehabilitation. I understand that if I am accepted as a participant, I may at anytime request that my name be removed from receiving products from Heal Vets. This is a voluntary request for my participation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submit application & eligibility to: PHR Coordinator, at the address below or fax to: (951) 926-3569  
Help Heal Veterans is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation established in 1971



# Partners In Patriotism

**GIVE MONTHLY TO HELP OUR HEROES**



Partners in Patriotism is a win-win monthly giving option to make things more convenient for you ... and allow us to do the best job we possibly can for America's sons and daughters.

Partners in Patriotism is the most effective way to help our proud veterans, service members and their families. When you sign up, you support life-changing programs every month of the year. *It's a great way to show you care!*

**Partners in Patriotism:**

- Keeps administrative costs down so more money goes to programs.
- Allows for better budget planning and program funding to help more veterans, service members and their families.
- Cuts down the amount of mail you receive. You will only receive the *VFW Supporter Quarterly* newsletters.

## Sign Up Today!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### CHOOSE HOW YOU DONATE

**Option 1: Credit Card**

- Visa     MasterCard  
 Discover     American Express

\_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE

Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- monthly  
 quarterly  
 annually

• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**Option 2: Checking Account Deduction**

Please send us a voided check along with the completed information below and return it to:

VFW National Headquarters  
406 West 34th Street, Suite 718  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- monthly  
 quarterly  
 annually

• Minimum amount is \$10.00, processed on/or around the 20th of the month.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Return this form to VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 718, Kansas City, MO 64111 or fax to (816) 968-1129. Questions? Please call Donor Services toll-free at 833-VFW-GIVE (833-839-4485), or email [vfwfundraising@vfw.org](mailto:vfwfundraising@vfw.org). *Thank you!*

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



**VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN**  
*Every child deserves a happy family.*

**How many of the Comrades, Sisters and Brothers are aware of the Amazon Smile Program?**

**We have all been asked at one time or another to support the VFW National Home for Children by donating?**

**Do you or your family purchase items from Amazon?**

**Do you know that donations can be made to the VFW National Home for Children by using Amazon Smile?**

**Every eligible purchase you make on smile. Amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to charity.**

**They do not charge any fees or take any deduction from the donation amount, and there is no cost to the charitable organization.**

**So, to do this, please do the following:**

- **To shop at AmazonSmile, go to smile. Amazon.com in your web browser or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping App on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app.)**
- **In your browser, you may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. When you are using the app, always check for the “AmazonSmile” logo to make sure it’s activated for AmazonSmile.**
- **Now, wasn’t that painless? You bought something you wanted or needed and also made a donation to the “VFW National Home for Children”.**

**If you would like more information, please contact me at**

**jerryrk@cox.net or 619-255-4108**

