



VFW AT A GLANCE

Veterans of Foreign Wars

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Mission:

VFW is an organization of war veterans committed to ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services and advocating for a strong national defense.

HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111,
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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MEDIA CONTACT

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PARTNER ORGANIZATION

A national volunteer service organization,
the Ladies Auxiliary of the VFW was found-
ed in 1914 and is the backbone of many
local VFW volunteer efforts.

MEMBERSHIP SIZE

1.8 million members in all 50 states, the
District of Columbia and 19 foreign coun-
tries

CURRENT PRIORITY ISSUES

- **VA Budget** Ensure funding is authorized and appropriated for the continuing operation and enhancement of the Veterans Health Administration.
- **Education** Secure funding increases to establish a GI bill for the 21st century that provides full tuition and living-expense stipends at any institution to which a veteran is accepted.
- **Military Quality of Life** Increase active-duty armed forces pay to equal its private-sector counterparts.
- **War on Terrorism** Support strong and decisive action against countries that sponsor and protect terrorist groups.
- **Defense/Armed Forces** Increase defense budget and provide resources necessary to execute U.S. military strategy.
- **POWs/MIAs** Achieve fullest possible accounting of American MIAs from WWII through the Gulf War.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Those serving honorably in the U.S. armed forces in a foreign war or overseas operation recognized by a campaign medal, in Korea after June 30, 1949, and recipients of hostile-fire or imminent danger pay. Veterans of World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Iraq wars, Grenada, Panama, Lebanon, Afghanistan and other smaller expeditionary campaigns, as well as occupation duty, qualify.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Thousands convene each August at VFW's national convention to elect officers, adopt resolutions and discuss business affairs. Leading the organization are the elected commander-in-chief, senior vice commander-in-chief and junior vice commander-in-chief. The National Council of Administration serves as the VFW's board of directors.

More than 9,000 Posts comprise 54 Departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Latin America, the Pacific Areas and Europe. Posts form the basic local chapter.

ORIGINS

In 1899, the American Veterans of Foreign Service (Columbus, Ohio) and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines (Denver, Colo.) were organized to secure rights and benefits for veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippines War (1899-1902). These two organizations merged in 1914, creating the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. VFW was chartered by Congress in 1936.