

# YOUR VFW

AT A GLANCE



**VFW**

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

## A Proud Legacy

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

## Our Mission

To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

## Our Vision

Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

## Our Core Values

- Always put the interests of our members first
- Treat donors as partners in our cause
- Promote patriotism
- Honor military service
- Ensure the care of veterans and their families
- Serve our communities
- Promote a positive image of the VFW
- Respect the diversity of veteran opinions

*Cover: The "Citizen Soldier" statue proudly stands outside of the VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. It commemorates the VFW's first century of service for those in uniform and the communities in which they live. The sculpture highlights three important aspects of the organization. First, the VFW member helps the soldier by supporting veterans. Second, the document in the member's hand symbolizes the fight for veterans in the public and political arenas. Third, the entire piece symbolizes the transition from soldier to citizen and VFW member.*

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# Your VFW Membership Benefits All Veterans

The VFW strives to do good things for deserving people — our veterans, service members and their families. From local grassroots ideas to national influence, we work every day to make a difference. It's our strength as an organization, and with each individual membership, we only grow stronger.

A strong VFW means a louder veteran voice that cannot be ignored.

It ensures we have the strength to fight to protect VA benefits, and that we're taken seriously when advocating for new veterans' programs and veterans' legislation.

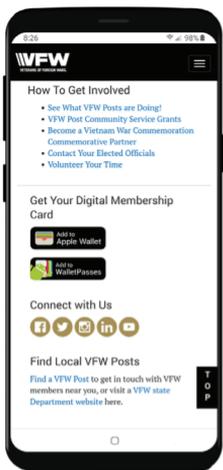
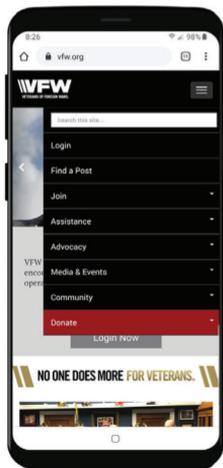
## Create Your Online Membership Account

Creating an account on the VFW website is easier than ever with ID.me! Simply go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and click the LOGIN button at the top of the page. Create your account today by clicking on the “Sign up with Troop ID” button at the bottom of the pop-up box. Follow the prompts on each screen to create your account. Once your account is created, you will log into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) using the “Sign in with Troop ID” button, which will log you into My VFW. You will be able to manage your membership online with a click of a button. Need assistance? Contact your Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387).

## What is ID.me?

ID.me is a simplified identity verification experience for users. Once a user has verified their identity with ID.me, they never have to re-verify again anywhere that ID.me is integrated. ID.me's next-generation identity platform meets the highest federal standards for online identity proofing and authentication, without compromising access for hard-to-identify groups. ID.me is a technology used by more than 6 million individuals and 200 partners, including federal and state agencies, healthcare organizations, financial institutions, retailers, and nonprofits.

# Get Your Digital ID Card



- 1 To get a digital ID card (your Annual or Life membership card), you must visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and login to your online account on your mobile smart phone.
- 2 Once logged in on your smart phone on the My VFW page, simply scroll down until you see Get Your Digital Membership Card.
- 3 If you have Apple Wallet, click on the “Add to Apple Wallet” button and your card should appear on your smartphone screen.
- 4 If you are an Android user, you will click on “Add to WalletPasses.” If you do not have the app, you will need to download WalletPasses in the Google Play Store first, then go back to your online account and click on “Add to WalletPasses.”

# Enjoy the Ease of Life Membership



Annual member dues cover the cost of your membership through the date indicated on your membership card. We'll notify you each year when it's time to renew.

**But why worry about your membership lapsing and missing out on your hard-earned member benefits?**

**New Life members receive a 10% discount on VFW Store purchases for your first year!**

When you become a Life member, your dues are covered as long as you live. You will never mess with reminders, notices or wondering if you're paid up. *You've earned the privilege of Life membership in the VFW.*

## **IMPORTANT DETAILS TO KNOW – VFW LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- The cost of your Life membership is based on your age (see table to the right).
- You can make a one-time payment.
- Installment plans are available with a \$45 initial payment with 11 monthly payments after that.
- You will receive your Life member card when payment is received in full.

# Life Membership Payment Schedule

AGE as of DECEMBER 31st	ONE-TIME PAYMENT	LIFE MEMBERSHIP INSTALLMENT PLAN	
		initial payment	11 payments of
THROUGH AGE 30	\$425.00	\$45.00	\$38.64
31-40	\$410.00	\$45.00	\$37.27
41-50	\$375.00	\$45.00	\$34.09
51-60	\$335.00	\$45.00	\$30.45
61-70	\$290.00	\$45.00	\$26.36
71-80	\$225.00	\$45.00	\$20.45
81 AND OVER	\$170.00	\$45.00	\$15.45

**Take the next step. Become a VFW Life member today!**

For more information, visit [vfw.org/Join](http://vfw.org/Join) or call toll-free at 1.888.JOIN.VFW (1.888.564.6839).



**Shop at [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) for exclusive Life member merchandise.**

# Payment Plans That Work For You

Setting up automatic payments for your VFW membership is both easy and beneficial to you! It not only saves you time, but it also ensures your payment is made promptly and with no lapse in your VFW membership or in the benefits associated with your membership.

You may set up autopay for your yearly dues payment, for your payments on the Life membership installment plan or for the Legacy Life membership installment plan.

To set this up, simply login to your account at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and under Membership Quick Links, go to Online Membership System (OMS), Personal Services, Payment Profile and follow the prompts.

If using the online option does not work for you, an advisor from the Member Service Center would be more than happy to assist you with the setup of autopay or with any questions you might have. You can reach the Member Service Center team toll-free at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387) or at [msc@vfw.org](mailto:msc@vfw.org).



# Frequently Asked Questions

*Q. What are the hours of operation for the Member Service Center?*

A. Our hours are 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Central Time) Monday–Friday.

*Q. Do you have to be a veteran to purchase items from the VFW Store?*

A. No, simply contact us at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387) or visit [vfwstore.org](http://vfwstore.org) to place an order or request a complimentary supply catalog.

*Q. How do I find a Post in my area?*

A. Go to [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and click the Find a Post option located at the top of the page.

*Q. How do I transfer my membership?*

A. In order to transfer your membership to another Post, it is necessary to take your request to the Quartermaster of the VFW Post you wish to join.

*Q. Why do I get so many dues notices?*

A. We want to give our members every opportunity to renew membership in the VFW as conveniently as possible. One way we do this is by utilizing direct mail to provide a reminder to renew. Beginning with the July 2019 notices, we eliminated several of the reminders to help cut costs, as well as reduce the amount of mail you receive as a member.

*Q. My dues have been paid, where is my membership card?*

A. Membership cards usually arrive 7–10 business days after your payment has been received and processed.

*Q. Why is the initial \$45.00 not deducted from my Life membership?*

A. The initial \$45.00 keeps your membership in good standing during the installment period as well as defrays the cost of monthly payment processing. You are considered an Annual member until the balance of the installment is paid off.

*Q. Can I get a subscription for the VFW magazine if I'm not a member?*

A. Yes, contact the Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387) or [msc@vfw.org](mailto:msc@vfw.org).

*Q. How do I change my mailing address?*

A. You can update your mailing address by accessing your online account at [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), contacting the Member Service Center at 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387) or emailing us at [msc@vfw.org](mailto:msc@vfw.org).

# Member Benefits



## It's Just One More Way You Are Honored

In honor of your service to America, patriotic businesses across the country offer exclusive discounts and services to VFW members. Visit [vfw.org/MemberBenefits](http://vfw.org/MemberBenefits) to learn more about the perks that come along with your VFW membership!

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### Insurance Programs

Access to insurance and life planning products made available to you at exclusive rates.

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### Financial Services

Make the most of your money with convenient services.

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### Technology and Electronics

Use great discounts and stay up-to-date on the latest technology.

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### Travel Services

Let us help you make traveling more convenient! Discounts on your travel package, hotel and car rental.

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### Haircuts

Sport Clips Haircuts is proud to be the Official Haircutter of the VFW.

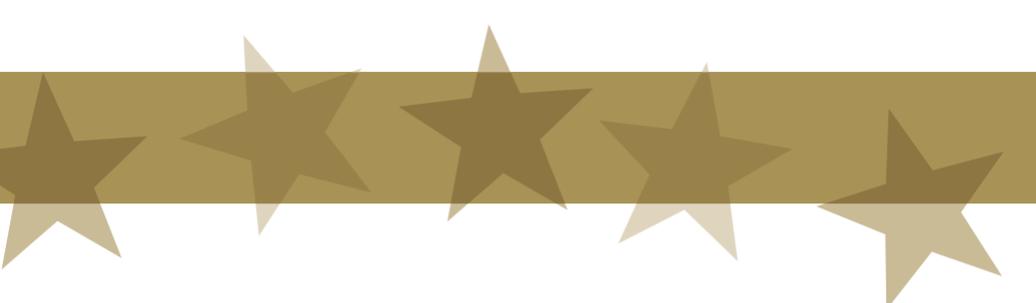
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### Medical Services

Members save on prescriptions, vision, hearing aids and other health products.

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**CALL TODAY! 1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)**

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**End of Life Services**

End of life services help you give your family peace of mind.

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**Publication Subscriptions**

Take advantage of your exclusive membership discounts on Army Times, Marine Corps Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Stars and Stripes publications.

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**Entertainment**

Access to discounts, special offers and preferred seating and tickets to top attractions, theme parks, shows, sporting events, concerts, movies and much more.

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**Retail Discounts**

Save up to 80% off list price for all of your office and school supply needs at Office Depot.

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SIGN WARS OF THE U.S.  
HEADQUARTERS

# Legislative Priorities

The VFW's National Legislative Service is our watchdog on Capitol Hill with one goal: to protect YOU.

We meet with members of Congress and advocate for legislation to improve benefits and programs for military service members, veterans and their families. We listen to our members through resolutions adopted at the VFW National Convention and surveys conducted on the VFW's website. We equip, educate and organize our members through the VFW Action Corps.

As one of the most respected voices on Capitol Hill, we will never stop fighting for the rights and benefits all veterans have earned through their faithful and honorable service. Getting beneficial legislation passed and stopping unacceptable legislation is our mission.



# Legislative Accomplishments

By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th and 21st centuries:

## SINCE 1899

- ✓ First veteran organization to maintain a permanent office in the nation's capital
- ✓ Creation of congressional committees on Veterans Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs
- ✓ Disability compensation benefits
- ✓ Survivor benefits for spouses and children
- ✓ Establishment of the GI Bill of Rights, including all subsequent versions
- ✓ Benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic substances
- ✓ Eliminated the SBP/DIC offset for surviving spouses, nicknamed the Widow Tax

## RECENT VICTORIES

- ✓ Expanded caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras — previously limited to post-9/11 veterans
- ✓ Prevented significant copayment increases for TRICARE
- ✓ Secured passage of the Forever GI Bill, which gives certain veterans a lifetime to use GI Bill benefits
- ✓ Consolidation and improvement of how veterans access private sector doctors
- ✓ Restored VA benefits to tens of thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans

## VFW Action Corps

Stay informed, read the VFW Action Corps Weekly to get the latest information on key veterans' legislation, national security matters, and other news that affect America's defenders. Make your voice heard! Help strengthen our position on important issues by responding to VFW Action Alerts and participating in Action Corps surveys. Contact the Action Corps at: **202.608.8372 • [www.vfw.org/ActionCorps](http://www.vfw.org/ActionCorps)**



## VFW Programs & Services

Our programs and services are the heart of our great organization. Take a moment to learn more about the many ways your VFW is helping to improve the lives of veterans, service members and their families everywhere.

### **National Veterans Service**

The VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) program assists veterans in filing claims with the VA.

NVS is a nationwide network of VA-accredited service officers who are experts in dealing with the claims process, and who help hundreds of thousands of veterans recover

### **VFW's Pre-Discharge Program**

This program ensures separating and retiring active-duty military personnel receive assistance in obtaining their VA entitlements and benefits upon discharge.

Our pre-discharge representatives, located on or near major military installations across the country, guide military personnel through the veterans claims process prior to their separation from active duty. They are also ready to answer questions about education and medical benefits, as well as VA home loans.

billions of dollars in earned benefits and compensation for veterans every year.

Your first step in filing a claim should be to contact a VFW Service Officer. **The entire process is free to all veterans**, whether they are VFW members or not. Visit our website to learn more and find a VFW Service Officer near you.

**1.800.839.1899**

**[www.vfw.org/NVS](http://www.vfw.org/NVS)**

## **National Security & Foreign Affairs**

Through our National Security & Foreign Affairs (NSFA) program, we advocate on issues ranging from quality of life improvements for service members to the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action.

We articulate a national security and foreign affairs policy that:

- Calls for quality of life improvements for military personnel, retirees and their families.
- Encourages strong national defense and homeland security programs.
- Promotes strong allies abroad.
- Seeks the fullest possible accounting of all military service members from all wars.

**[www.vfw.org/NSFA](http://www.vfw.org/NSFA)**

## **1 Student Veteran**

The VFW's 1 Student Veteran program offers direct assistance to veterans who are experiencing problems accessing their earned benefits by leveraging the VFW's expertise in understanding VA benefits.

We seek to ensure student veterans receive their benefits in a timely manner and have a place to turn to if they need help. Our direct access to VA Regional Offices across the country means we can work quickly to provide our student veterans timely and accurate answers regarding the complex claims process. It also means those whose education benefits have been wrongfully denied, delayed during a transfer from one school to another, or paid in error will not have to wait the months it would traditionally take to file a formal appeal.

**Email: [1studentveteran@vfw.org](mailto:1studentveteran@vfw.org)**  
**[www.vfw.org/1StudentVeteran](http://www.vfw.org/1StudentVeteran)**

## **Unmet Needs**

The VFW Unmet Needs program helps America's service members and veterans who run into unexpected financial difficulties as a result of deployment or other military-related activity. The program provides financial grants to assist with basic life needs.

Since the program's inception, Unmet Needs has distributed millions of dollars in financial aid to qualified military families.

**1.866.789.6333**

**[www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds](http://www.vfw.org/UnmetNeeds)**

## Scholarships for Veterans

The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way we say "thank you" for your service and sacrifice.

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 are awarded to qualified applicants each semester, and previous recipients are free to apply again in the future.

**1.833.839.8387**

**[www.vfw.org/Scholarship](http://www.vfw.org/Scholarship)**

## VFW Mental Wellness Campaign

Our nation faces a crisis of veteran suicide. That's why the VFW launched its Mental Wellness Campaign. We are committed to helping change the narrative and stigma surrounding mental health in America.

To raise awareness, foster community engagement, improve

research and provide intervention for those affected by invisible injuries and emotional stress, the VFW has teamed up with the nationwide organizations Give an Hour and the Campaign to Change Direction, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe, Walgreens, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to combat this critical issue.

**[www.vfw.org/MentalWellness](http://www.vfw.org/MentalWellness)**



## Youth and Education

Working alongside America's youth and instilling a sense of patriotism has always been — and will always be — a VFW priority. The VFW provides scholarships and other incentives to both middle school and high school students through the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions. The VFW also inspires achievement through the Scout of the Year and Teacher of

the Year awards. Through VFW in the Classroom, we also regularly provide students with rare insight into the great sacrifices our service members make to maintain freedom for all of us.

[www.vfw.org/Youth](http://www.vfw.org/Youth)

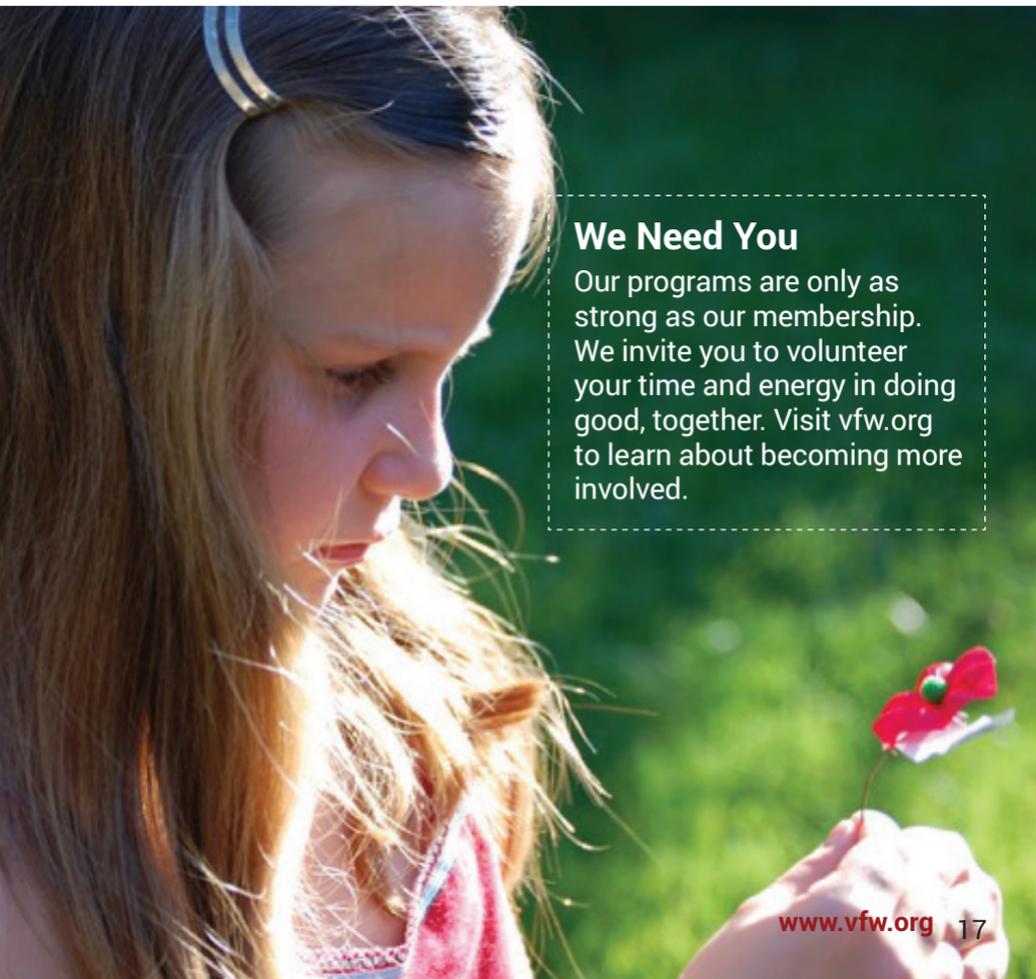
## Community Initiatives

We understand first-hand the essence of rallying community support and the positive, life-changing impact we have on the world around us. That's why

VFW members volunteer nearly 9 million hours to community service projects annually, with volunteerism benefiting morale, education, the environment, health sciences and civic projects.

The VFW also takes the lead on fostering patriotism, honor and remembrance across the nation through the VFW's "Buddy"® Poppy program and other initiatives.

[www.vfw.org/CommunityInitiatives](http://www.vfw.org/CommunityInitiatives)



## We Need You

Our programs are only as strong as our membership. We invite you to volunteer your time and energy in doing good, together. Visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) to learn about becoming more involved.

## VFW Affiliates

### **VFW** VFW FOUNDATION FOUNDATION

As a 501(c)3, the VFW Foundation helps fund a variety of programs and services for troops abroad, military families back in the U.S. and America's often-forgotten veterans. These programs support all branches of service and are provided at no cost to the recipients.

### **VFW** VFW STORE VFWSTORE.ORG

Established in 1912, the VFW Store provides income to support VFW programs through the sale of emblematic and patriotic merchandise. It continues that mission today and the revenue generated goes to help veterans, military service members and their families!



### VFW AUXILIARY

Established 1914, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary set out to serve the veterans of

this country and their communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.



### MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE

Founded in 1920 and comprised of the officers and leadership of the VFW, Military Order of the Cootie of the United States (MOC) is a veterans service organization that works hard to further the aims of the VFW while adding their own touch of humor.



### VFW NATIONAL HOME

Founded in 1925, the VFW National Home for Children is a place where the families left behind by war — mothers and children, brothers and sisters — can remain together, keeping the family circle intact even when their service member didn't come home.

# know the five signs.

Reach out, connect, inspire hope, and offer help.



personality changed?



agitated?



withdrawn?



poor self-care?



hopeless?

#ChangeMentalHealth

visit

[www.changedirection.org](http://www.changedirection.org)

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.



## VFW National Headquarters

406 W. 34th St.  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
816.756.3390

Membership:  
1.888.JOIN.VFW (1.888.564.6839)

Member Service Center:  
1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)

Programs: 816.968.1102

Scholarship  
Unmet Needs  
Troop Support  
Youth & Education

Communications: 816.968.1118

Development:  
1.833.VFW.GIVE (1.833.839.4483)

VFW Magazine: 816.968.1166

VFW Foundation: 816.968.1128

VFW Store:  
1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)

Information Technology: 816.968.1156



## VFW Washington Office

200 Maryland Ave., N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
202.543.2239

National Veterans Service:  
1.800.VFW.1899 (1.800.839.1899)

National Legislative Service:  
202.543.2239

National Security and Foreign Affairs:  
202.543.2239

Communications and Public Affairs:  
202.543.2239

Reach us 24/7 at  
**[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)**



**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**



Let's Stay Connected

Visit us online: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

