

## A DONATION OF

# \$20

### ENSURES THE VFW CAN

- ★ Educate **30** separating service members on how to receive their well-earned VA benefits
- ★ Provide **500** minutes of phone time to homesick American troops stationed in the Middle East
- ★ Serve **5** morale-boosting “welcome home” meals for service members recently back from combat
- ★ Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war



“Don’t go through it alone. A VFW Service Officer can help. They know who to call ... who to

write ... who to appeal to. Seek help and you shall find it.”

*Vietnam veteran Michael Prata on receiving word that he was deemed 100% service disabled and awarded full benefits. Prata suffered from prostate cancer connected to herbicide exposure in Vietnam. Lost military records once sealed his fate, but the VFW stepped in and found the proof he needed.*

**As the nation’s oldest major veterans’ organization,** the VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

# 80%

Over the last decade, **approximately 80% of support received from VFW members and patriotic Americans** was applied directly to veterans service, community service, legislative advocacy and military service programs worldwide.

# 1,517

Number of VFW-accredited representatives across the country helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

# 1,870,214

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005.

# \$5.9 billion

The amount in VA benefits the VFW network helped more than 209,000 veterans recover in the last two years.

# \$3 million

Amount of scholarships, monetary awards and other incentives the VFW distributes annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.

# 21

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

# \$500,000+

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 130 veterans and service members through the VFW “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” program in 2014.

# \$5.1 million

Value of financial support awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. Nearly **half** of the funds covered basic housing needs.

# 7.5+ million

Number of connections between deployed service members and loved ones made possible by the VFW’s “Free Call Days.”



“Having one less worry has allowed me to focus on my husband—making sure he gets the care and support he needs.”

*Military spouse Michele Hyde, whose husband Jason struggles with PTSD. The Hydys received financial assistance from the VFW to help cover past-due bills.*

Learn more about the VFW’s programs and services at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).



## THE VFW BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly  
**1.9 million**

Number of VFW, Ladies Auxiliary VFW and Men's Auxiliary members.

**6,890**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.

**100%**

Percentage increase in the number of women VFW members since 2010.



## HELPING VETERANS GET JUSTICE

**66,904**

Number of favorable VA claims filed by the VFW's nationwide force of 1,517 VA-accredited service officers so far in 2014.

**14,666**

Number of VA claims filed by VFW Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) offices so far in 2014.

**16**

Number of Benefits Delivery at Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C. area.



## HELPING STRUGGLING MILITARY FAMILIES

**3,669**

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004.

**\$2,426,102**

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004.

**1,906**

Number of military families who have received assistance with housing needs since 2004.



## IMPROVING LIFE IN AMERICA

**7.9 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$45.8 million**

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



The VFW has fought for veterans and their families since 1899.



"The VFW grant came when we needed it most. We were almost on the streets.

When my family was at its lowest—when I was struggling to survive—my military family was there for us."

*Military spouse Stephanie Garritson on the financial assistance she received from the VFW. Her family was left in peril after her husband Robert's routine gallbladder surgery went wrong.*



## HONORING THE FALLEN

**9 million**

Number of VFW "Buddy" Poppies® distributed by the VFW last year.

**\$11.7 million**

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy" Poppy® program for needy veterans.



## INSPIRING PATRIOTISM IN YOUNG PEOPLE

**40,622**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2013-14 Voice of Democracy competition.

**115,343**

Number of students who competed in the 2013-14 Patriot's Pen competition.