

# VFW FACT SHEET



**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.



**YOUR DONATION OF**

**\$20**

**ENSURES THE VFW CAN**

- ★ Educate a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer
- ★ Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war
- ★ Provide training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services
- ★ Serve 5 morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat

**1,850**

Number of VFW-accredited representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

**7.6 million+**

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

**\$4.5 billion**

The amount in VA benefits the VFW network helped more than 255,000 veterans recover in the last three years.

**2,094,880**

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

**27**

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.

**\$3.3 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.

**\$6.1 million**

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 47% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

**\$3 million+**

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 714 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

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

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**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®**

# MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



## IMPROVING LIFE IN AMERICA

**8.6 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$49.8 million**

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



## HONORING THE FALLEN

**9.5 million+**

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

**\$12.3 million+**

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



## INSPIRING PATRIOTISM IN YOUNG PEOPLE

**36,435**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2015-16 Voice of Democracy competition.

**132,162**

Number of students who competed in the 2015-16 Patriot's Pen competition.

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

## THE VFW BY THE NUMBERS

**Nearly 1.7 million**

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**6,561**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



## HELPING VETERANS GET JUSTICE

**66,913**

Number of favorable VA claims filed by the VFW's nationwide force of VA-accredited service officers in 2015.

**13,279**

Number of VA claims filed by VFW Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) offices in 2015.

**20**

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



## HELPING STRUGGLING MILITARY FAMILIES

**4,050**

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

**\$2,905,298**

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

**2,136**

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