



COMMUNITY SERVICE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Community Activities**

- Americanism**
 - Teacher of the Year

- Safety**

- Public Service Recognition**
 - Firefighter
 - Law Enforcement
 - Emergency Medical Technician
 - Life Saving Award

- Yellow Ribbon**
- Other Community Service Projects**

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

Community Activities are an important part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars way of life and a great benefit to the community. Everyone develops his own perception of his community by what he sees going on immediately around him. Your work within your community and with other non-for-profit organizations can help your Post accomplish our goal.

Look over your Community Activity Programs and appoint an Activity Chairperson for each of the categories. Remember that all programs in the Veterans of Foreign Wars are important to Commanders at all levels. A Post that is strong in Community Activities not only earns respect in the community, but will also be strong in membership.

Commanders must report on-line or on the Community Activities Report Form by March 15, 2023 in order to qualify for a National Certificate of Recognition. Each Post must report in each of the following categories to qualify:

- a. Community Involvement
- b. Cooperation with other organizations
- c. Aid to others or Disaster Relief
- d. School and Church assistance

Community activities clearly benefits the people in the local community and involves the Post members to build a positive image for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

When taking on a project, inform your local newspaper or TV station about your plans and if possible, document your efforts by taking photos as you work at or on your Community Activities.

Membership and community involvement will increase your Post and our goal. We must continue to work within our communities because "No One Does More For Veterans". Commanders at all levels should review the Department X-Sheet on a weekly basis by checking out our website at www.vfwil.org.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.....

Remember to report your dollars spent, hours, and total number of Volunteers for each project. Please make sure that the dollars reported **reflect only those amounts donated or expended in the performance of their community activities.**

Our goal is to be 90% reported by December 31, 2022.



Charles Ingle
Chairman

5561 Hodges Run
Roscoe, IL 61073
Telephone: (815) 979-7152

Email:
chuck@roscoevfw.com

Post 2955-6

Report it when it happens on-line or to the:

State of Illinois
Veterans of Foreign Wars
3300 Constitution Dr.
Springfield, IL 62711

Community Activities Recordbooks Award

The top Community Activities Recordbook in each Membership Category will receive a \$50.00 Cash Award at the 2023 State Convention.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 150 members
Membership Category 2 - 151 to 300 members
Membership Category 3 - 301 members and up

RULES FOR THE RECORDBOOKS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Community Service Projects completed between May 1, 2022 and April 30, 2023.
2. Book size should be no larger than 12 x 16 inches and no thicker than 3 inches. You may use as many volumes as necessary.
3. Book to be separated into 4 Sections, A- B - C & D describing each project. Show money spent, and volunteer hours for each project. Also, show total of dollars spent and hours used at the end of each Section
4. Clippings or photographs should show dates and captions from newspapers and any other information
5. Checks and Photostats should show what the money was spent for, also, total number of volunteer hours for each project.
6. Your book must be in State Headquarters **by May 5, 2023** for judging on **May 8, 2023**.
7. The Community Activities Record Book Entry Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the record book.
8. Pages must be numbered.

**BY REPORTING YOUR OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES,
VOLUNTEERS AND HOURS FOR EACH PROJECT WE CAN
CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR FELLOW VETERANS AS WE CONTINUE THE MISSION OF
"WORKING TOGETHER - SUPPORTING VETERANS"**



Community Activities Record Book Entry Form

- 1. This Form must be filled out and attached to the inside cover of the Community Activities Record Book that your Post enters in the Department Community Activities Record Book Contest.**
- 2. All Record Books submitted for Department Judging will be returned to the Post Commander following judging.**
- 3. The Post Commander must sign this form.**
- 4. Your book must be in State Headquarters by May 5, 2023 for judging on May 8, 2023.**

Post # _____ City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Total Projects	Total Hours	Total Funds
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Since 5/1/22 _____ Volunteered _____ Used/Donated \$ _____

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN:

Post Chairperson _____ Auxiliary Chairperson _____

JUDGES, NOTE THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Page # _____, Project Name _____

Post Commander Signature _____

Post Commander's Name (print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State: _____ Zip: _____

Deadline Dates

National VFW Post Special Project Program Deadline is April 30, 2023

"VFW Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year" Award Deadline must be in Department Headquarters by April 1, 2023

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES CONTEST

- Department selects Posts based on their own criteria and National guidelines
- Number of Awards based on Department size:
 - Up to 200 Posts 1 selection
 - 201 to 400 Posts 2 selections

- Department selection due to National by May 1.

- Award presented to Post Commander at National Convention
- Each Post Commander receives \$599.00 to assist with Convention expenses
- National Award Plaque
- Post Recognition Street Sign

AMERICANISM PROGRAM

“AMERICANISM”...is the unflinching love of Country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, undivided allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and for posterity”. As American citizens and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, we know what Americanism stands for. It was, and is still, our responsibility to defend the United States in a time of peace as it is in time of war, foreign or domestic. By practicing Americanism we show our love of Country and must do so.

As veterans we should promote and participate in Americanism every day of every year. There are many things a Post, a District and an individual can do to promote Americanism. Here are just a few ideas. I am sure you can think of many more.

- Fly the American Flag every day at your Post Home.
- Present Flags to different organizations or if you see a tattered flag, donate a new one
- Hold flag etiquette sessions with various other organizations
- Encourage your membership to be informed by studying political issues and get out the vote.
- Furnish Color Guards/Honor Guards for civic programs, athletic events, and Memorial Service
- Remember Memorial Day, Independence Day, Patriot's Day, POW/MIA Recognition Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Loyalty Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and other memorial military days from our Nation's past.

Reporting Americanism is easy: fill out the VFW of Illinois on line Reporting Form or if you don't have a computer then you may contact State Headquarters (217-529-6688) to request the form and fill it in and mail it back to State Headquarters, 3300 Constitution Dr., Springfield, IL 62711. Remember reporting dates are May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023.

There are three (3) categories to report: Be sure to report all hours, money spent, and number of members participating in an event. You should report every time you have an event. The more you report the better chance you have of winning awards.

DISTRICT AWARDS:

The Districts with the highest number in hours, money, and members participating in the following three Membership Categories will receive a \$30.00 Cash Award at the 2023 Department Convention.

- Membership Category 1 - Up to 2,500 Members
- Membership Category 2 – 2,501 to 3,600 Members
- Membership Category 3 – 3,601 Members and Up



Sean Conner
Chairman

604 E. North Central Ave.
Tuscola, Illinois 61953
Phone: 217-317-1036

E-mail: seanconner21@gmail.com

Post 10009-17

POST AWARDS:

Posts with the highest number of hours, money and members participating in the following three Membership Categories will receive a \$30.00 Cash Award at the 2021 Department Convention.

Membership Category 1 - Up to 100 Members
Membership Category 2 – 101 to 300 Members
Membership Category 3 - 301 Members & Up

“Loyalty Day May 1, 2023”

Loyalty Day or May Day is always May 1.

A truly inspired Holiday, Loyalty Day was created by the VFW Organization in 1921. It was through the efforts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that in 1958 Loyalty Day was officially established by an act of Congress.

The reason we have Loyalty Day is to continually encourage loyal Americans to speak out. It is a Day upon which patriotic citizens should:

- 1) Hold parades
- 2) Conduct Flag ceremonies
- 3) Sponsor public meetings
- 4) Conduct school programs
- 5) and other American activities

Loyalty is an intangible thing, but it causes people to form a Government, to obey its laws and rules and to willingly defend their country against its enemies.

If your Post does not hold a Loyalty Day parade, maybe your District will

- 1) Invite civic leaders to participate and to speak
- 2) Encourage neighborhoods to join in
- 3) Invite the youth to march, or play in bands
- 4) Give out flags
- 5) Hold your VFW Buddy Poppy Donation Day

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

(Please note Deadlines)

This Program recognizes teachers who care about America. VFW annually recognizes the Nation's top classroom Elementary, Junior High (Middle Schools) and High School teachers who teach Citizenship Education topics regularly and who promote American History, traditions and institutions. Nominations are submitted by fellow teachers, supervisors and other interested individuals (not relatives). **Self-nominees are not eligible.**

National Headquarters mails these brochures out directly to the Schools but.....**Posts still need to contact the schools regarding this Program.**

Posts will need to follow up as **deadlines** are as follows:

- Teacher Nominations to Post - **October 31, 2022**
- Completion of Post Judging - **November 15, 2022**
- Completion of District Judging - **December 15, 2022**
- Completion of Department Judging - **January 10, 2023**
- Department winners to National - **January 15, 2023**
- District participation reports due to Department Chairman - **January 1, 2023**
- Department Reports to National - **January 31, 2023**

District Chairmen **must** send the following to Department Headquarters for Judging:

Winner's original entry form and essay of 350 words or less

Winner's official Post Teacher Entry form with signatures at **Post & District** Level.

One page resume (**no more than two sides**)

Up to 5 (five) pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor's recommendations.)

Good quality head and shoulders photograph (**color copies or low grade computer printouts will not be accepted**)

(Note: No entries will be considered for Department Judging if all of the above criteria is not included with the nomination)

State Awards

The first place winner in each of the three categories will receive \$100.00 Cash and a special engraved plaque. A special engraved plaque will also be presented to the winning Teacher's School.

The Categories are:

Kindergarten through 5th Grade, 6th through 8th Grade, and 9th through 12th Grade.

National Awards

(as shown on our National Headquarters web page, www.vfw.org.)

Included in this Program is the end of the year Post Report Form that the District Chairman is to fill out and submit to the State Americanism Program Director by no later than January 1st, 2023.

With your help and dedication, we can continue the mission of "Working Together - Supporting Veterans".



SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD CITATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SCHOOLS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects elementary, middle and high school teachers to participate in the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher program. Effective this year, VFW Post Teacher Award Chairman may submit one candidate to their **Department Headquarters by January 1, unless your state does district judging.** The Department will select a single candidate and submit them to **VFW National Headquarters by February 1 for national judging.** VFW's Department Teacher winners that are received at National Headquarters will receive a VFW National citation for both the winning teacher and their school.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the completed "VFW Department Teacher Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. Simply visit vfw.org/#login, log in to My VFW, then look under Member Resources, click on VFW Training & Support, then click on Community Service & Youth Programs, then look under Additional Resources. The Teacher Entry form, Instruction sheet, Citation request form and Chairman's Manual will be up on the VFW website in the near future.

Who Is Eligible?

1. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today.
2. All current certified/licensed teachers in grades K-12 are eligible. Previous national winners are ineligible. Nominations can be submitted by themselves, fellow teachers, supervisors, family members or other interested individuals.

Documentation Required for all Candidates:

1. All Post-level nominees should provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves, if available. These items will be forwarded on to the Department with the winning teacher entry form.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Office 816.756.3390
Fax 816.968.1157

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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

Office 202.543.2239
Fax 202.543.6719

info@vfw.org
www.vfw.org

2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022 – National Award: \$3,000

What is the Teacher Award Program?

Founded in 1899, the VFW highly supports the education of America's youth. VFW and its Auxiliary have developed a slate of programs dedicated to helping America's educators. VFW Citizenship Education programs stimulate interest in America's history, traditions, Americanism, civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism.

Teachers care deeply about America and its children. They're concerned about the perpetuation of America's noblest traditions and highest ideals. Wouldn't you like to see them get the honor they deserve? Now you can.

Why Should I Enter?

The VFW wants to identify and recognize America's best educators who instill a sense of national pride in students. It offers cash awards, commemorative plaques and all-expenses-paid trips to the VFW National Convention for these worthy teachers. The trip provides an opportunity for winners to network with like-minded individuals.

How are teachers nominated?

Fill out the nomination form contained in this brochure, and provide a one-page resume as a minimum or up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (for example: references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo if available.

Please submit your completed nomination form signed, along with the required documentation to your local VFW Post. Visit vfw.org/FindaPost for Post locations or call VFW Programs Department at 816.756.3390 ext. 6287 to find the Post nearest you.

• 2021-2022 Official Entry Form

• **Teacher Award Competition**

• *Must Be Completed by All Contestants*

• Name: First, M.I., Last _____

• Address _____

• City, State, Zip _____

• () _____

• Phone _____

Email _____

• Grade Taught _____

• School Name _____

• School City, State _____

• **To Be Completed by the VFW Post**

• *I certify that this teacher has an authorized entry in our VFW Post Level Teacher Award Competition.*

• Post Commander's/Chairman's Signature _____

Post # _____

• VFW Auxiliary President's/Chairman's Signature
(If Applicable) _____

• Post Address _____

• City, State, Zip _____

• VFW Post Email _____

• No. of teachers participating _____

• No. of winners advanced to District _____

• Amt. of Post/Aux. scholarship awards \$ _____

• Amt. of Post/Aux. additional expenses \$ _____

(banquet, pins, etc.)

2022-2023 Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award



Entry Deadline: October 31, 2022 – National Award: \$3,000

To Be Completed by the VFW District (If Applicable) I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected winner of the Teacher Award District Competition and is our sole entry into the Departments.

District Chairman's Signature _____	Dist # _____
Address _____	
City, State, Zip _____	
() _____	_____
Phone _____	Email _____

To Be Completed by the VFW Department Chairman I certify that the teacher named in the previous section is the duly selected first-place winner of the Teacher Award Department Competition, is our sole entry into the National Judging.

Department Chairman's Signature _____	
() _____	
Daytime Phone _____	Email _____

The winner has been will be (check one) notified that they are the first-place Department winner on _____.

Where Do I Submit My Entry?

All entries begin at the local VFW Post level. Individual nominees may submit their entry directly to the Post. This VFW Post should be within your local area and within your U.S. state of residence. Entries sent to VFW National will be returned. One Post winner advances to District, if applicable, then one District winner advances to the state (Department) competition. If you need help finding a participating VFW Post in your area, follow these instructions: First, visit this website vfw.org/FindaPost to "Find A VFW Post." Be sure this Post is within the state you reside in. If you do not have success in finding a Post, or if you have trouble getting in touch with them, you can contact your VFW Department (state) office to see if they can offer any information or assistance. You can visit vfw.org/ContactUs and look for "Find a State Contact" to get your VFW state office's phone number and email. If you still need assistance, please email us at VFW National Headquarters at tbeauchamp@vfw.org.

What Is the Deadline for My Entry?

- All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hands of that VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31, 2021.
- It is the responsibility of the nominator to meet this deadline by submitting their entry to the proper location by ensuring it is a participating Post.

What Are the Judging Criteria?

Citizenship (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what extent does the teacher encourage and/or model good citizenship and community involvement?

Innovation (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, how much innovation (new ideas, new tools, new resources, and new approaches) does this teacher utilize in the classroom? Does this teacher's effort reflect an ongoing desire to stimulate the students with new things?

Resources (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree has this teacher demonstrated an ability to identify and utilize new and exceptional resources to fund, facilitate and provide materials for his or her classroom? Does this teacher tap into outside agencies, organizations and individuals to acquire materials and expertise in the classroom? As an example – bringing speakers, finding in-kind and monetary donations, or utilizing local opportunities like museums, field trips and local events.

Passion (1-25 points): On a scale of 1-25, to what degree does this teacher appear to be passionate about the profession of teaching? Are they regularly seeking to upgrade their skills? Do they try and find ways to encourage their students? Do they take a personal interest in their student's individual success?

*If you have any questions, please call
Tammy Beauchamp, 816.756.3390, ext 6287 or
tbeauchamp@vfw.org*

Local VFW Post Information:

Contact _____	
Phone _____	Best time to call _____
Alternative Contact _____	
Phone _____	Best time to call _____

VFW DISTRICT CHAIRMEN ONLY

**DISTRICT REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE
SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

USE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THE ATTACHED:

The guidelines listed below are intended to help clarify the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award reporting process and to ensure that all participation and expenses incurred by Posts/Auxiliaries are completely and accurately reported for proper credit:

TOTAL POST PARTICIPATION

List Posts in your District that had a declared winner. Please list the participating Posts in numerical order on the report form.

TOTAL AUXILIARY PARTICIPATION

If Post has an Auxiliary, credit their participation by indicating *YES* or *NO*.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Number of schools that had teachers nominated.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TEACHERS

Number of teachers that actually were nominated.

AWARDS AND MONEY EXPENDED

Total dollar values of awards presented to teacher participants at Post & District level. All additional moneys allocated and expended in conducting their program. (Banquet, gifts, medals, citations, etc.)

**Forwarding Smart/Maher VFW Natl Citizenship Education Teacher Award
District Winners to Department**

District Chairman: The District winner's materials that should be forwarded to the Department Chairman (immediately after the District judging is completed) are:

1. District winner's original nomination form and essay of 350 words or less signed by person nominating the teacher.
2. District winner's official Post Teacher Entry form w/ signatures at Post & District level.
3. One page resume (**no more than two sides**).
4. Up to 5 pages (both sides) of additional documentation (i.e. news articles, supervisor's recommendations.)
5. Good quality head and shoulders photograph (**low grade computer printouts will not be accepted.**)

If you have any questions, please contact VFW Programs (816) 756-3390 x 287 tbeauchamp@vfw.org

**DISTRICT PARTICIPATION SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TEACHER AWARD**

DISTRICT NO. _____

DEPARTMENT OF _____

The VFW Posts and Auxiliaries identified in this report participated in the VFW annual Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year Award Program.

GRAND TOTALS FOR POST COMPETITION: (list totals taken from District report forms)

Posts	Auxs	Participating Schools	Nominated Teachers
			\$ _____
			Awards Amount

MONETARY VALUE OF DISTRICT COMPETITION:

District Awards \$ _____

District Additional Expenses \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL of POST/DISTRICT \$ AMOUNT \$ _____

Signed by: _____ Date _____
District Commander/Chairman

PLEASE NOTE:
GIVE THIS REPORT TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN
The report form and this summary should be in the hands of your Department Teacher Award Chairman (or Citizenship Ed Chrm) immediately following the completion of your District judging.



**DISTRICT REPORT FORM FOR THE
SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION
TEACHER AWARD**

POST #	AUXILIARY	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF TEACHERS NOMINATED	POST \$ AMOUNT EXPENDED

GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ARE LISTED ON THE ENCLOSED LETTER. PLEASE REVIEW.

SAFETY PROGRAM

The Safety Programs of the Veteran of Foreign Wars continues to provide and promote programs designed to safeguard our communities. This long-standing commitment to safety has grown through the years to include every possible program or event associated with safeguarding people. Be creative and develop a safety activity and REPORT all accomplishments on the Department of Illinois Program Reporting Form. The six basic categories in the National Program are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Highway Safety | 2. Pedestrian Safety |
| 3. Recreational Safety | 4. Home/Fire Safety |
| 5. Drug Awareness | 6. Recognition/Other |

- HIGHWAY SAFETY:** Any activity intended to improve individual driving skills and awareness or activities associated with improving safety in our vehicles and on our roadways.
- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:** Any worthwhile activity intended to improve individual awareness and visibility or non-motorized vehicle riding skills, awareness and responsibility
- RECREATIONAL SAFETY:** Any organized activity associated with improving the skills and responsibilities of those individuals engaged in recreational activities with children and adults.
- HOME/FIRE SAFETY:** Activities designed to promote and inform individuals within the community about protecting their homes, possessions and lives are reportable.
- DRUG AWARENESS:** Any program designed to inform and protect your community from the influence of substance abuse including prescription drugs.
- RECOGNITION/OTHER:** A program to bring public recognition to the people of the community who spend their work day protecting the lives and property. Recognizing the heroism/or safety achievements of individuals in the community. This category may be used to report an activity that does not fit any of the above categories including cooperation with other groups and organizations besides the V.F.W.



Les Durov
Chairman

819 Graceland
Des Plaines, IL 60016
Phone: (630) 670-1355

Email:
les@vfw1337.us

Post 1377-4

POST AWARDS

A Special Plaque will be awarded to the top Post in the following Membership Categories who reports the largest amount of hours, dollars, and members. These Awards will be presented during our State Convention.

- Membership Category 1 - Up to 150 Members
- Membership Category 2 - 151-300 Members
- Membership Category 3 - 301 Members and up

Report all completed work to the Department on the Department Program Report form. Good luck to all participating Posts.

PUBLIC SERVANT RECOGNITION

Each year, the Department of Illinois recognizes the great efforts of public servants throughout Illinois. Unless otherwise noted, the deadline to State Headquarters is April 30 for award nominations in the following categories:

- Outstanding Legislator of the Year
- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year (Jan. 1 for national consideration)
- Firefighter of the Year (Jan. 1 for national consideration)
- Outstanding Patriotism of the Year
- Paramedic of the year (Jan. 1 for national consideration)
- Outstanding Governmental Service of the Year
- Clergy of the Year
- News Media Professional of the Year (Public Relations program)
- Outstanding Citizen of the Year

There is no special form to fill out to nominate an individual. Just submit a short nomination letter as why the individual deserves to be recognized. Include the name and address of the individual submitted in the appropriate category and the sponsoring Post and/or Auxiliary and the Post/Auxiliary contact person.

PUBLIC SERVANT RECOGNITION (NATIONAL)

PUBLIC SERVANT AWARD CITATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND FIREFIGHTERS

Each year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars selects emergency medical technicians, law enforcement and firefighter personnel to receive VFW Public Servant Awards. Post Safety Chairmen are encouraged to submit a candidate for these awards to their Department Headquarters by **Jan. 1**. The Department must select a single candidate for each of the three awards and submit those to VFW National Headquarters by **Feb. 1**.

NOTE: The only item the National VFW Programs Department requires is the "VFW Department Public Servant Award Citation Request Form" which is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

VFW National Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation:

Any individual, who actively gives emergency medical treatment, provides rescue service or civil disaster assistance as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to give emergency medical care, provide rescue and civil disaster assistance to our nation's citizens.

VFW National Law Enforcement Public Servant Citation:

Any individual who serves in a municipal, county, state or federal unit tasked with enforcement of the laws pertaining to their area of responsibility. This award does not apply to individual employed by private companies or security services.

VFW National Firefighters Public Servant Citation: Any individual who actively fights fires as a member of any public or volunteer company organized to fight fires and give assistance to our nation's citizens.

Criteria for these awards – Candidates must have demonstrated:

- 1) Recognition by their colleagues or those they serve.
- 2) Consistent excellence in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

Documentation required for all Candidates:

- 1) Nomination letter containing the candidate's name, title, address, telephone and identifying the award for which the individual should be considered.
 - a. Include justification outlining background in field, accomplishments and awards.

Note NEW (not required) One (1) page VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form is now available on the VFW website. You can locate this form by logging in to vfw.org and searching under "My VFW" in the Training & Support section.

If you have any questions contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816.756.3390 Ext. 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org.



VFW Life Saving Award Citation Entry Form

NOTE: Please attach and send with this form all documentation of the event (newspaper clippings, articles, etc.).

To be filled out by VFW Representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: VFW Department:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW POC

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Address: (for mailing citation)

City: State: Zip:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (Regular, Line of Duty or Valor)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Gender:

Occupation Title: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation or N/A)

Employer Name: (If available)

Address of Employer: (If available)

City: State: Zip:

Employer Phone: Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to VFW National Headquarters, Attn: Tammy Beauchamp at Fax# 816-968-1149 or E-mail to tbeauchamp@vfw.org or Lynn Rolf at lrolf@vfw.org. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined above in reference to the event. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.



VFW Public Servant Award Citation Post Entry Form

NOTE: VFW Point of Contact should fill out their section below prior to distributing this form.
This will provide individuals from outside of the VFW with the needed information to submit their packets successfully.

To be filled out by VFW representative

Sponsoring VFW Post #: Sponsoring District #:

Date of Presentation: MM/DD/YY (if available)

VFW Post POC

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Address: (where to mail entry)

City: State: Zip:

Individual Submitting Nomination

Full Name:

Phone: Email:

Nominee Information

Choose appropriate citation: (EMT, Firefighter or Law Enforcement)

Full Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Occupation Title: (if any) (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Employer Name: (please list as you wish it stated on the citation)

Address of Employer:

City: State: Zip:

Employer Phone: Employer Email: (if available)

Please complete this form and submit to your local VFW Post using the information provided above. Ensure to include all required documentation that is outlined on the instructions sheet provided with this form. All post entries must be received by their **Department Headquarters no later than January 1st**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Beauchamp at 816-756-3390 x 6287, e-mail tbeauchamp@vfw.org

YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

I want to say thank you to State Commander Bobby Edwards for appointing me as the very first Chairperson of the newly formed Yellow Ribbon Program in Illinois. I look forward to working with Commander Edwards and the entire leadership team for the upcoming year.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program (YRRP) is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. Through Yellow Ribbon events, Service Members and loved ones connect with local resources before, during, and after deployments. Reintegration during post-deployment is a critical time for members of the National Guard and Reserve, as they often live far from military installations and other members of their units. Commanders and leaders play a critical role in assuring that Reserve Service members and their families attend Yellow Ribbon events where they can access information on health care, education and training opportunities, financial, and legal benefits. The Yellow Ribbon Program works with government partners to provide e up-to-date and relevant information to the members of the All-Volunteer force and their families.

Throughout Illinois, we have National Guard and Reserve units from all the branches that are being deployed around the globe. It is important for the VFW Posts to participate in the Yellow Ribbon events for these units. As they prepare to deploy, we need to be there to let them know who the VFW is and what we are doing to fight for benefits on their behalf. During deployment, we need to be to support the families, answer questions and keep the family informed of benefits due their loved ones. Following deployment, we need to be there and make sure the service member knows what benefits are available to them as they transition back to civilian life. All the service members are potential new members of the VFW and a positive effort to support them during the deployment process can show them the importance of belonging to the VFW.

During the year, I will send out announcements about Yellow Ribbon events in Illinois. I ask each VFW Post and members to attend the Yellow Ribbon events if they are available and show the Service Member and their loved ones how the VFW can best support them during the deployment period. Consider hosting an event, like a picnic or family day, for the service member and their family. Presenting the VFW in a positive light and showing our support will pay big dividends. I hope to see you at the events throughout the year, demonstrating that we are "Working Together – Supporting Veterans"

POST AWARDS

A Special Plaque will be awarded to the top Post in the following Membership Categories who reports the largest number of hours, dollars, and members for participation in Yellow Ribbon events. Reports must be submitted through the X-Sheet and clearly identify the hours, dollars, and members participating in Yellow Ribbon events. These Awards will be presented during our State Convention.

- Membership Category 1 – Up to 150 Members
- Membership Category 2 – 151-300 Members
- Membership Category 3 – 301 Members and up



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