



Department of Illinois

Fact Sheet

About us

The VFW traces its 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 sick or wounded. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them and they were left to care for themselves.

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.

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.

Contact Us:

Phone: 217-529-6688

Facebook: VFW State of Illinois

Email: vfwil@vfwil.org

2025/2026 Metrics

\$280,230	Service Members Assistance
\$47,176	Military Appreciation Programs

76,269 Total VFW/AUX Volunteer Hours

86 Scholarships and \$406,918 Awarded	Help a Hero Scholarship
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1,291 Voice of Democracy Student
Participation

209,000	Poppies Distributed
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3,391 Patriots Pen Student
Participation

503	VA Claims Filed
\$306,336,955	New Recoveries

Community Service VFW/AUX
Hours 76,204 Donated \$1,377,717
Total (Hours & Dollars) \$4,028,862

33,451	Members
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December 11, 1920	Charter Date
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2026-2027	Robert Bailey
State Commander	