

# CHECKPOINT



## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Extra Extra..... 2

- Transportation options for national convention
- VFW offers emergency medical assistance for travelers
- Remember VFW in estate planning

### Veterans Information Center..... 2

A New York Post opens a place for vets to get counseling, use a computer and more.

### VFW Store..... 3

The VFW Store has more than 2,000 products and aims to meet the needs of all.



### Voice of Democracy..... 4

Here's a look at the sites visited by high school students representing 53 VFW Departments.



### Garden State Post..... 6

New Jersey's capital, Trenton, is finally home to a VFW Post. Its members are front and center in the community.

### Unmet Needs..... 7

Four-tour Iraq vet gets help from VFW at a critical time in his family's life.

### Ending Food Insecurity..... 8

VFW will launch "Uniting to Combat Hunger" in June to work to end food insecurity.



*'An Opportunity for all Ideas'*

## VFW National Legislative Conference a 'Transformational' Experience

**Nine student veterans came together on Capitol Hill in March as part of VFW's National Legislative Conference, joining forces for one common goal – to meet with legislators and advocate for veterans' causes.**

The following students are the latest VFW-Student Veterans of America (SVA) fellows to take on that task: Jennifer Hosley, Bradley Ward, Gabriel Snashall, Edward Tjaden, Brian Walker, Ryan Rehberg, Joseph Sacco, Hannah Joyce and Francheska Salazar.

Ward, who served from January – September 2014 with the 302nd MP Co. from Grand Prairie and the 18th Airborne Corps in the Army Reserve, said the week in D.C. was a "transformational experience."

"The opportunity to connect and openly discuss policy and veteran-related issues with Congressional leaders and department directors was an incredible experience that is certain to prepare me for future work in the field," Ward said.

For Walker, it was "eye-opening" to witness the work it takes to advocate on behalf of veterans.

"This has given me a much deeper appreciation for the work that is involved, knowing there are many who are fighting for veterans like myself," said Walker, who served in the Navy aboard the *USS Sacramento* from 2001-04, supporting *Operation Enduring Freedom* and *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

Joyce, an Air Force veteran who served in Afghanistan in from 2005-06, attached to the Bagram Air Base Medical Joint Force Command, said as veteran advocates, they must "strive to maintain a legitimate seat at the table

without losing why we sat down in the first place."

"Everyone has their perspective, but having the ability to listen, collaborate and act with intention toward a solid solution takes flexibility by everyone involved," Joyce said.

The fellows also witnessed VFW National Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman testify on VFW's behalf to Congress.

"I sat right in the front row watching Commander-in-Chief Harman testify on significant issues that negatively affect my community – how Congress needs to push legislation that resolves these issues quickly and efficiently to aid those marginalized veterans," said Snashall, who served in the Navy aboard the *USS Pittsburgh* from January 2011 to January 2016 as an Electronic Support Measures Operator and Radio/Telecommunication Supervisor.

### Making a difference

Hosley, who served in the Army from 2007 to 2015 with deployments to South Korea and Kuwait with D Btry, 1st Bn., 44th Air Defense Arty, 69th Air Defense Artillery Bde., 32nd Air and Missile Defense Command, said the experience was "incredibly busy," but made her feel like she had a "real shot" at making a difference. Similarly, Rehberg, who served in the Army from 2008-09 with the 2nd Bn., 7th Cav, 1st Cav Div., as an infantryman, said



Jennifer Hosley, a member of VFW Post 6527 in Greenwood, Ark., discusses policy with (from left) SVA's Vice President for Government Affairs Will Hubbard, VFW National Council of Administration member Terry Callahan and Sen. John Boozman (R-Ark.) Hosley is one of nine VFW-SVA Fellows who attended VFW's National Legislative Conference in March. PHOTO COURTESY OF SVA



Ed Tjaden, a member of VFW Post 1592 in St. Peters, Mo., meets with Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) in March during VFW's National Legislative Conference. Tjaden was one of nine VFW-Student Veterans of America Fellows who attended the conference. PHOTO COURTESY OF SVA

his biggest takeaway was that, while difficult, advocating becomes easier through support and guidance.

Sacco, a former sailor who served aboard the *USS Bunker Hill* from October 2014 to January 2015 as a Cryptologic Technician (Collection), said meeting other veterans who are passionate about helping their own community was inspiring. Salazar, who served in the Navy with Destroyer Squadron 8, attached to the *USS Kearsarge* and deployed to Port Au Prince, Haiti, from September to October 2008, had a similar experience.

"I loved being surrounded by so many passionate and dedicated advocates all working toward a common goal of making this country better for those who signed a blank check to serve their country," Salazar said.

The fellowship also provided some of the student veterans, like Tjaden, with renewed determination to bridge the gap between veterans and the community.

"The biggest takeaway was that it was time for me to transition from my work as president of the Washington University SVA to an active member of the O'Fallon, Mo., Post," said Tjaden, who served in Iraq with the 2nd Bde., 1st Armd. Div., Forward Operating Base Hammer, Camp Liberty and Camp Stryker, in 2008. "I look forward to serving in whatever role will best help my VFW comrades."

**EMAIL:** [kwilliams@vfw.org](mailto:kwilliams@vfw.org)

# EXTRA! EXTRA!



## GETTING AROUND KANSAS CITY, THE CITY OF FOUNTAINS

If you plan to fly into Kansas City, Mo., for VFW's national convention, here's what you need to know about getting from Kansas City International Airport to the Kansas City Convention Center, downtown hotels and Crown Center (Westin/Sheraton) area hotels.

None of the downtown hotels, including Westin and Sheraton at Crown Center, have a private shuttle service to and from the airport.

For discounts on an airport shuttle, visit <http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=VFWUS>, or go to [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) and enter discount code VFWUS when you make your reservation. This gives all VFW National Convention attendees 10 percent off a roundtrip reservation. Travelers can use this code on both ends of their travel – at the airport of origin and at their destination airport. Discounts cannot be applied retroactively.

To get a fare quote, go to [https://booking.supershuttle.com/?\\_ga=2.218474457.1146509480.1511995716-1784955752.1482963717](https://booking.supershuttle.com/?_ga=2.218474457.1146509480.1511995716-1784955752.1482963717), then select an airport and destination to generate a fare quote.

For questions about a special reservation, call 1-800-BLUE-VAN, or 1-800-258-3826. Reservations made over the phone are subject to a \$3 call center fee.

For more information about transportation and housing options, as well as additional information about the VFW National Convention, visit <https://www.vfw.org/news-and-publications/events/vfw-national-convention>.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PLUS

Nothing can put a damper on a relaxing vacation faster than an illness or unexpected medical emergency. It doesn't matter if you're traveling domestically or internationally, Emergency Assistance Plus gives you peace of mind with 24-hour emergency assistance if you were to have a medical emergency.

This program includes medical transportation, recommendations on care options, help with translation services and making sure your vehicle is returned home safely. It also looks after your beloved travel companions.

For additional information, visit <http://vfwinsurance.com/life-planning/#ea+> or call 1-855-837-2634.

## SIGN YOUR NAME, CHANGE YOUR FUTURE

VFW members like you frequently tell us, "I wish I could do more." Learn how you can make an impact for future generations of veterans, just by signing your name — all it takes is a few words in your will. Call the VFW Planned Giving Office at (816) 968-1119, email [plannedgiving@vfw.org](mailto:plannedgiving@vfw.org) or visit [www.vfw.org/plannedgiving](http://www.vfw.org/plannedgiving) for more information.



## Celebrating its Grand Opening

# New York VFW Post Opens Veterans Information Center

Thanks to the work of VFW Post 4662 in Warwick, N.Y., their community's veterans will have a place to visit where they can receive assistance with applying for VA benefits, attend seminars and take yoga classes.



After a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 1 for Warwick's (N.Y.) new Veterans Information Center, VFW Post 4662 members show off the location where veterans can receive counseling and assistance on applying for benefits, as well as attend classes and seminars. The center also offers art and yoga classes. PHOTO COURTESY OF VFW POST 4662

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place March 1 for the new Veterans Information Center in Warwick, N.Y. The center, open to all veterans, offers and will host special events, which, Post 4662 Commander Dan Burger said will address issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress and continuing education. It also will be a place where veterans can receive counseling.

"At the Veterans Information Center, we took over what were doctor's offices, and we converted them into private counseling rooms – whether it's for helping with benefits or giving actual counseling from the VA," Burger said. "This is our Post, but it's set up like a professional office building."

Burger, a 1991 Persian Gulf War veteran and former Army captain who served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, said the information center also will offer veterans a computer lab and basic computer courses to help veterans apply for benefits.

"Some people that have difficulty accessing information, because they are not comfortable with computers, for instance – so that is something we thought we could help with," Burger said. "We tried to identify some of the challenges people are having with their transition from the military, and help them in those areas."

EMAIL: [dspiva@vfw.org](mailto:dspiva@vfw.org)



## Treating Sailors and Marines

On April 9, with the help of VFW Post 10804 and Auxiliary members in Little River, S.C., Girl Scout Troop 91, shipped 1,013 boxes of donated Girl Scout cookies to sailors and Marines aboard the *USS New York*, which currently is in the Middle East.

Girl Scout Troop 91, based in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., started the project in February and originally set a goal to sell 600 boxes of cookies. The Girl Scouts worked to raise the donated boxes outside of local stores and during community events.

Girl Scout Troop 91 Co-Leader Jamie Bandari said that members of Post 10804 and Auxiliary are "some of the best people" she has ever met.

"We could not have made and exceeded our goal without them," she said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMIE BANDARI

# CHECKPOINT

**Editor**  
Janie Dyhouse

**Assistant Editor**  
Kari Williams

**Senior Writer**  
Dave Spiva

**Graphic Designer**  
Sally A. Nemeth

Checkpoint is an award-winning newsletter published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November. Its purpose is to provide VFW Department, District and Post leaders with information to enhance their job performance and furnish them with a more comprehensive understanding of the organization.

Correspondence can be sent to the editor at VFW National Headquarters.

VFW Department, District and Post publications may reproduce sections of *Checkpoint*. All other publications must receive editor's permission. Internet address: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 756-3390  
Checkpoint email: [jdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdyhouse@vfw.org)

**VFW WASHINGTON OFFICE**

VFW Memorial Building  
200 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 543-2239 • Fax: 202-543-6719  
Email: [vfw@vfw.org](mailto:vfw@vfw.org)

© May/June 2018

## VFW Store Offers More than 2,000 Products

Those attending VFW's national convention in July in Kansas City, Mo., will get the first look at some 75 new products introduced by the VFW Store.

According to VFW Store Manager Sonja Cutright, among those new items are products for children, as well as a couple for pets.

"We recognize that so many of our members have grandchildren," Cutright said. "But more and more, we are seeing our younger members bring their families to convention. We also see a lot of service dogs. We strive to offer something for everyone."

It's a big job for the store's 14 employees, Cutright said. About 200 orders are placed each day through [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org) or through the VFW Member Service Center. She added that it's a pretty even split – 50 percent online orders and 50 percent phone orders.

Cutright said the top-selling products are U.S. flags, membership caps and podiums. Post leaders most often order podiums.

Also at convention, the 2018-19 VFW Store catalog will be unveiled. Those catalogs will be mailed in August to anyone who has placed an order in the past year. Individuals also can call 1-800-821-2606 or email [MSC@vfw.org](mailto:MSC@vfw.org) to

request a free catalog.

"While we take great pride in our catalog," Cutright said, "we prefer to drive our customers to the VFW Store website. It always has the most current products."

While the store exists to provide products designed to increase public recognition of the organization and pride in membership, it serves a much greater purpose – to help fund vital VFW programs.

"In the past year, we netted nearly \$1.1 million," Cutright said. "More than \$800,000 of that went to programs that support the mission of VFW and \$172,000 went to the VFW Auxiliary."

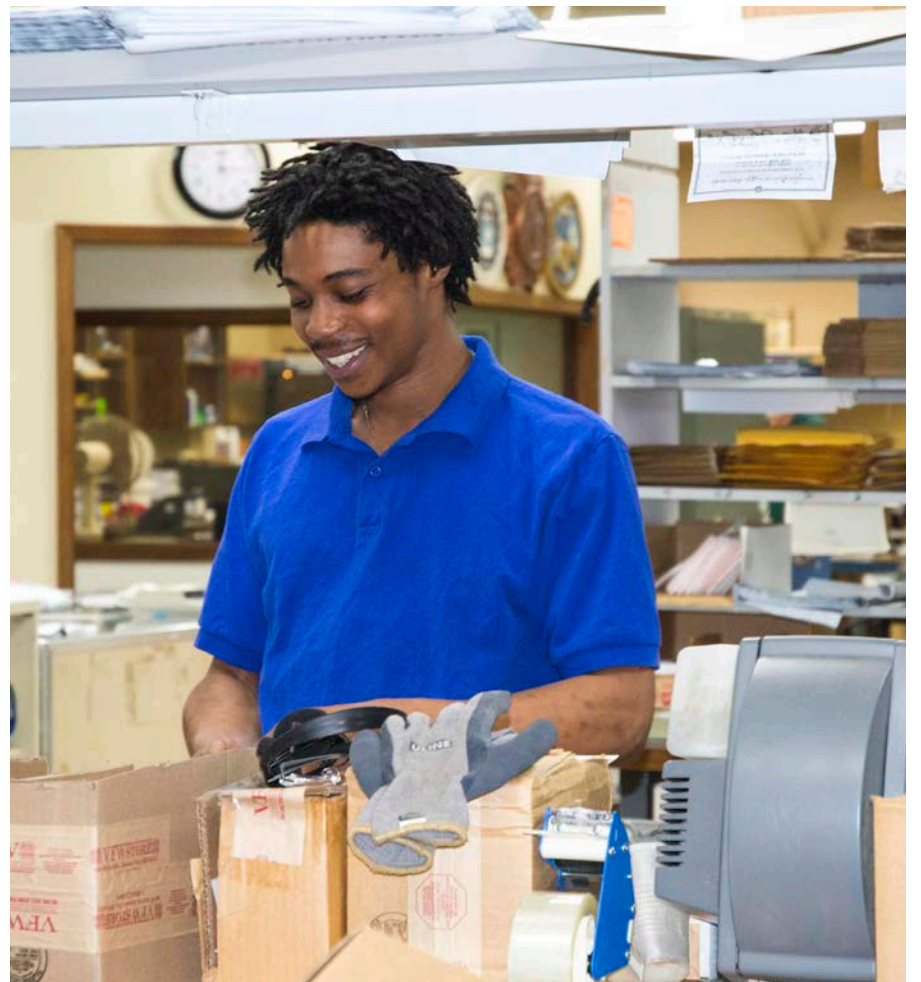
Cutright said she doesn't think the average members knows that the store offers more than 2,000 products and has access to thousands of other items through the custom products division. Discounts are available on bulk quantity and custom ordered products.

To see the latest VFW and Auxiliary products, visit [www.vfwstore.org](http://www.vfwstore.org).

**EMAIL:** [jdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdyhouse@vfw.org)

"We strive to offer something for everyone."

— Sonja Cutright,  
VFW Store Manager



Upper left: From left, Randy Foster, Hank Ellis, Kelcy Daniels (standing), Hunter Dady, Chase Searcy and Aaron Bradley (kneeling) make up the VFW Store's warehouse staff. The six employees are tasked with fulfilling the hundreds of orders that come in each week.

Upper right: VFW Store employee Aaron Bradley works on an order in the warehouse at VFW National Headquarters in April.

Left: Kelly Durham, Kim Winston, Sonja Cutright, Katie Middleton and Melissa Dady review new VFW Store products for sale in April. Convention goers can expect to see some 75 new items introduced at this year's convention in July in Kansas City, Mo.

PHOTOS BY LAUREN GOLDMAN/VFW



VFW Auxiliary President Dee Guillory and Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman present Robyn Anzulis, the 2018 Voice of Democracy winner, with the \$30,000 first-place award following the competition in Washington, D.C., in March. PHOTO BY BOB KNUDSEN

*'Remove the Debris From our Own Eyes'*

## 9/11 Survivor Inspires VOD Winner

As Robyn Anzulis pondered what to discuss in her Voice of Democracy (VOD) essay, her thoughts “naturally drifted” to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, an event that occurred in her lifetime and now is cemented in history books.

That’s how she came across the story of Aziz Ahsan, a Muslim-American who was at the World Trade Center during the terrorist attack and has made religious tolerance his mission.

“I decided to take his story and focus on how responses to the 9/11 attacks promoted national unity in a way that my generation does not fully understand,” said Anzulis, a senior at South Carroll High School in Sykesville, Md., who won first place in VFW’s 2018 Voice of Democracy essay contest.

All Americans, according to Anzulis, should follow Ahsan’s lead.

“Since Sept. 11, Ahsan has brought people of all walks of life together, working with Jewish teenagers to promote an understanding of religious intolerance and encouraging Muslim-Americans to create a more positive view of Islam,” Anzulis wrote.

However, she goes on to conclude that good deeds alone are not enough.

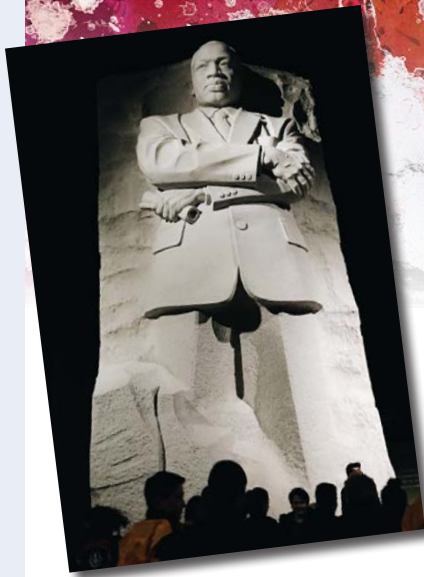
“In the interest of our future, now is the time to remove the debris from our own eyes,” she writes. “We must heal our divisions and see each other as part of the same American family because history reminds us that when we act as one people – as one nation – we can overcome any obstacle.”

Anzulis said the VOD experience, which gave her the chance to practice public speaking and included a trip to Washington, D.C., in March, was “incredible.” Winning the contest was “such a shock.”

“From a monetary perspective, it means that I now have a large scholarship that will help to cover the cost of law school,” Anzulis said. “However, even without the scholarship, the experiences I have had and will continue to have as a result of the VFW are invaluable. I believe I speak for all of the Department winners when I say that I am incredibly grateful to the VFW for providing me with such unique experiences and supporting me in my goals.”

Though she has not yet decided where she will attend college, Anzulis said she has been accepted everywhere she applied. She plans to major in mathematics and public policy to prepare for law school.

**EMAIL:** [kwilliams@vfw.org](mailto:kwilliams@vfw.org)



Winners of VFW’s Voice of Democracy contest explore Washington, D.C., during VFW’s National Legislative Conference in March. All 53 VFW Department winners were honored during the conference. Students were able to visit sites such as the Newseum, the White House and the Lincoln Memorial. The highlight of the visit to the nation’s capital was the announcement of the \$30,000 scholarship winner. Robyn Anzulis, of Maryland, won the top prize. Each of the orators was awarded a scholarship. Nearly \$2 million in scholarships was presented.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VOD WINNERS

# Voice of Democracy 2018



## New Garden State Post Hits the Ground Running

**Trenton, N.J., the state's capital, is now home to VFW Post 12165, one of the newest VFW Posts. And, even though the Post, chartered on Oct. 19, is less than one year old, it doesn't stop members from making an impact on their community.**

Post Commander Luddie Austin, an Army veteran and retired Trenton police officer, said he is glad to finally have "VFW representation" in his hometown.

"After I came back from Iraq, it came to my attention that Trenton didn't have a VFW," Austin said. "I thought it was best for me and like-minded veterans to start a Post charter in our hometown."

Austin, who served in Iraq in 2004 with C Co., 759th MP Bn., 89th MP Bde., originally joined a nearby Post, but wanted to have a Post in his community. He said it is important for Post members to represent VFW at community events.

That is why he participated in the Trenton's annual half marathon, 10K and 5K event. Austin and Joe Thorpe, Post 12165 trustee, ran in the event – Austin the 10K and Thorpe the half marathon. Both represented their VFW Post along the way. Austin said Thorpe and he crossed the line at the same time "as a sign of unity."

Austin also said Post 12165 will be represented at Trenton's upcoming Litter March in June.

"We have Post members that are eager to participate in beautifying our city," Austin said. "All of this helps promote the brand of VFW."

Austin said one of the reasons he and others started the Post was to work with schools in Trenton.

"None of the schools were even aware of the *Voice or Democracy or Patriot's Pen* scholarships," Austin said. "We are also in the process of starting a community breakfast program that gives members of the community and their families a chance to mingle with veterans of the Post. The goal is to get people out in the community instead of enclosed in their home."

Another activity that Post 12165 members participated in included donating



(From left to right) VFW Post 12165 Trustee Joe Thorpe and Commander Luddie Austin show off their medals after completing a half marathon and 10K run, respectively, during an annual running competition in October in Trenton, N.J.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUDDIE AUSTIN

Christmas presents and a meal to a needy family, as well as to Capital Health in Trenton, N.J., on Christmas Eve.

"We donated toys to the pediatric ward of the hospital to children who were not going to be home for Christmas," Austin said. "We also provided meals to the nursing staff who were away from their families that day."

Austin said members currently are in the process of obtaining a building for the Post. But, a Trenton restaurant, 1911 Smokehouse Bar-B-Que, allows the members to meet at its facility for meetings until the Post finds a permanent home.

"They allow us to do it at no cost," Austin said. "We really appreciate them and everyone else in the community that has supported us."

**EMAIL:** [dspiva@vfw.org](mailto:dspiva@vfw.org)

Members of VFW Post 12165 spread holiday cheer with nurses and patients on Christmas Eve at Capital Health in Trenton, N.J. Post members donated toys to the pediatric ward and a meal to the staff.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUDDIE AUSTIN



*'We Needed the Help Desperately'*

## Unmet Needs Keeps Veteran Out of 'the Rabbit Hole'

Nick Guerrero was behind on utility bills — the electric company shut off power — and car payments until VFW stepped in to help.

Guerrero, who deployed four times during the Iraq War, said support through VFW's *Unmet Needs* program helped him get current on bills and purchase groceries.

"The grant saved us from falling further down the rabbit hole," Guerrero said. "I was in a point of my life where everything was collapsing around me, and if it wasn't for the existence of this program, I don't know where my family and I would be in this very moment. I cannot fully express my gratitude in words for this nonprofit to be there when we needed the help desperately."

Guerrero served with the 1st Bn., 17th Inf. Regt., 172 Stryker Bde. (2005-06 and 2006-07) as an infantryman and with the 1st Bn., 18th Inf., 2nd Armd. Bde. Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., (2008-09 and 2010-11) as a combat medic. He was medically discharged March 27, 2015, for PTSD, anxiety, depression, psychosis, anger disorder, paranoia and TBI.

Guerrero said his wife, Ana, found out about the program from a veteran who had received an *Unmet Needs* grant. He applied in September and was awarded the grant in December.

To anyone in a similar situation, Guerrero said, "Don't hesitate to give the VFW a call and ask for the help."

"It's wonderful to know people out there care and are willing to spend a couple of minutes of their lives to do something special for a veteran... Our families are very grateful for the assistance you provide when the veteran is in a crisis," Guerrero said.

**EMAIL:** [kwilliams@vfw.org](mailto:kwilliams@vfw.org)

### Unmet Needs has Disbursed \$10 million

VFW's *Unmet Needs* program helps America's military families who have experienced unexpected financial difficulties.

The program, supported by Burger King franchisees, provides financial aid to assist those with basic life needs in the form of a grant — not a loan.

Since 2004, Unmet Needs has given \$10 million to more than 8,800 military and veteran families. In the current fiscal year alone, the program has assisted nearly 4,000 service members and veterans.

Learn more about the *Unmet Needs* program at: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>.

### DO I QUALIFY FOR UNMET NEEDS?

To be eligible to receive financial assistance through VFW's *Unmet Needs* program, a recipient must:

- ✓ Be on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of deployment, military pay error or medical discharge.
- ✓ Have been discharged on or after Sept. 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of military-service connected injuries and/or illnesses that are causing an employment hardship.
- ✓ Have been discharged prior to Sept. 11, 2001, who is on a fixed income (VA compensation, SSI, SSDI) and/or whose financial hardship is an emergency situation.

#### The financial hardship can't be caused by:

- Civil, legal or domestic issues; misconduct; or any issues that result from spousal separation or divorce.
- Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

#### Eligible expenses

- Household (mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance)
- Vehicle (payments, insurance, repairs)
- Utilities
- Food and clothing
- Children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses
- Medical bills, prescriptions eyeglasses

#### Ineligible expenses

- Credit cards, military charge cards or retail store cards
- Cable, internet or secondary phones
- Cosmetic or investigational medical procedures/expenses
- Taxes
- Furniture, electronic equipment or vehicle rentals
- Any other expenses not determined to be a basic life need



Nick Guerrero served with the 1st Bn., 17th Inf., 172nd Stryker Bde. (2005-06 and 2006-07) as an infantryman and with the 1st Bn., 18th Inf., 2nd Armd. Bde. Combat Team, 1st Inf. Div., (2008-09 and 2010-11) as a combat medic. He recently received a grant from VFW's *Unmet Needs* program to help pay bills and buy groceries. PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK GUERRERO

# VFW Aims to End Food Insecurity



Volunteers glean crops in the Kansas City metropolitan area to give to local food pantries to help fight hunger. Gleaning is picking edible crops that remain in the fields or orchards after a harvest. The produce is often aesthetically unappealing, but offers the same nutritional value as the rest of the crop. VFW's national convention in Kansas City in July will provide more opportunities for those wanting to help. PHOTOS COURTESY OF AFTER THE HARVEST

## Alarmed at the number of veterans suffering from what is being called "food insecurity," VFW is launching the campaign "Uniting to Combat Hunger" on June 6 in Kansas City, Mo.

A study by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health found that 27 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan war vets struggle to put food on the table. Furthermore, 1 out of 8 Americans do not have enough to eat. In Kansas City alone, 15 percent of the community faces the issue of food insecurity.

Food insecurity doesn't necessarily mean just being hungry. It also means not knowing when or where the next meal will come from or how a person will feed his or her family.

"This is something VFW won't tolerate," VFW Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman said. "That's why we are teaming with others to do something tangible in our Kansas City community."

Sponsored by VFW, After the Harvest, Harvesters—The Community Food Network and Humana, the campaign aims to provide 50,000 meals in Kansas City and the surrounding areas.

To kick it off, volunteers from each of the four organizations will participate in an After the Harvest "gleaning" on June 6 to gather fresh produce.

According to Lisa Ousley, executive director for After the Harvest, gleaning is

hand picking edible crops that remain in the fields or orchards after a harvest. Typically, the produce isn't visually appealing for selling in grocery stores, but tastes the same.

Located in Kansas City, After the Harvest strives to provide fresh produce to food banks, pantries, shelters and community kitchens in Missouri and Kansas.

"We are honored to join forces with the VFW, Humana and Harvesters to elevate the issue of food insecurity, especially among vets of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars," Ousley said.

In addition to gleaning, Harvesters also will provide a food-packing opportunity during VFW's national convention in July. Collection barrels will be placed at various businesses around Kansas City through the end of July.

Convention attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods to put in the Harvesters barrels around the Kansas City Convention Center. The Harvesters Mobile Pantry will be on site if attendees would rather purchase there.

In addition to the other efforts, "dip jars" will be strategically placed throughout the convention center for those wishing to donate money to Harvesters.

"This collaboration adds to the many ways that the VFW assists and advocates for veterans, military service members and their families," VFW Quartermaster General Debra Anderson said.

EMAIL: [jdyhouse@vfw.org](mailto:jdyhouse@vfw.org)



MAY | JUNE 2018

## CHECKPOINT

VFW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • PUBLICATIONS  
406 WEST 34TH STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO 64111

### Posts with the Most VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS OR MORE AS OF APR. 20, 2018

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members	Rank	No.	Location	Members	Rank	No.	Location	Members
1	1503	Dale City, VA	2,861	11	76	San Antonio, TX	1,588	28	9399	Apache Junction, AZ	1,176
2	27	Wiesbaden, Germany	2,621	12	7968	Apache Junction, AZ	1,560	29	56	Leavenworth, KS	1,159
3	1114	Evansville, IN	2,175	13	10047	North Las Vegas, NV	1,445	29	2111	Chula Vista, CA	1,159
4	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	2,162	14	6506	Rosedale, MD	1,444	31	549	Tucson, AZ	1,152
5	392	Virginia Beach, VA	1,996	15	4647	North Highlands, CA	1,416	32	1512	Lemon Grove, CA	1,120
6	8862	Vicenza, Italy	1,907	16	63	Boise, ID	1,368	33	3282	Port Orange, FL	1,105
7	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany	1,829	17	4809	Norfolk, VA	1,366	34	2503	Omaha, NE	1,098
8	4709	Conroe, TX	1,807	18	9342	Ansbach, Germany	1,357	35	972	Terre Haute, IN	1,093
9	9785	Eagle River, AK	1,742	19	628	Sioux Falls, SD	1,343	36	7686	Alamogordo, NM	1,089
10	2485	Angeles City, Philippines	1,672	20	2391	Saint Augustine, FL	1,335	37	10281	Radcliff, KY	1,075
				21	7234	Ocean View, DE	1,328	37	1170	Middletown, KY	1,075
				22	6873	Abilene, TX	1,261	39	7564	West Fargo, ND	1,063
				23	4372	Odessa, TX	1,245	40	969	Tacoma, WA	1,035
				24	10097	Fort Myers Beach, FL	1,244	41	2866	Saint Charles, MO	1,029
				25	10216	Songtan-Si, Korea	1,218	42	1273	Rapid City, SD	1,027
				26	1146	St Clair Shores, MI	1,209	43	1326	Bismarck, ND	1,025
				27	8951	West York, PA	1,194	44	10436	Kitzingen, Germany	1,003

