

CHECKPOINT

NEWS FROM VFW'S FRONT LINES

'That's What We're Here For'

VFW Provides \$57,500 for Tornado Victims



PHOTO BY SGT HEATHER DENBY CLOSE/ARMY

Above: Following a devastating tornado on Dec. 31, 2010, at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., U.S. Army Sgt. Timothy Hanck, left, with the 252nd Military Police detachment, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, leads a team to assess damage to military housing. **Right:** Department of Missouri Commander Robert Wonnell visits with Army Capt. Julie Hatcher. VFW distributed checks totaling \$57,500 to 167 service members at the Army post.

MOTHER NATURE took an uncharacteristic twist on the morning of Dec. 31, 2010. An EF-3 (136+ mph) tornado tore through Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., leaving a path of destruction across the Army post in the southern part of the state.

Of the 159 damaged homes, 41 were completely destroyed and another 32 suffered significant damage. Surprisingly, there were only four injuries. Many of the families were still gone for Christmas vacation, which likely reduced the number of injured.

When Jessie Jones, adjutant for VFW's Department of Missouri, heard about several displaced families, he contacted VFW National Headquarters about helping the troops.

"VFW was founded on the premise of helping veterans," Jones said. "There's no greater form of support than reaching out to those who've lost their homes and need us—that's what we're here for."

So on Jan. 5, VFW's National Military Services

(NMS) distributed grants totaling \$57,500 to 167 service members and families living at the Army engineer base.

"This incident was extremely unfortunate and couldn't have affected a more selfless group than our nation's soldiers," said Mike Penney, director of NMS. "It's a privilege being in the position to help those who deserve it most and have sacrificed so much for all of us."

According to Maj. Gen. David Quantock, base commander, in addition to the damaged homes, the post's water treatment plant had the roof blown off. He added that there was a "significant amount of equipment" severely damaged—mostly tactical vehicles and tactical communications equipment.

"You never want this to happen, but it does happen," Quantock said. "We had the right people in place to take care of the immediate concerns and essential services we have here at Fort Leonard Wood."

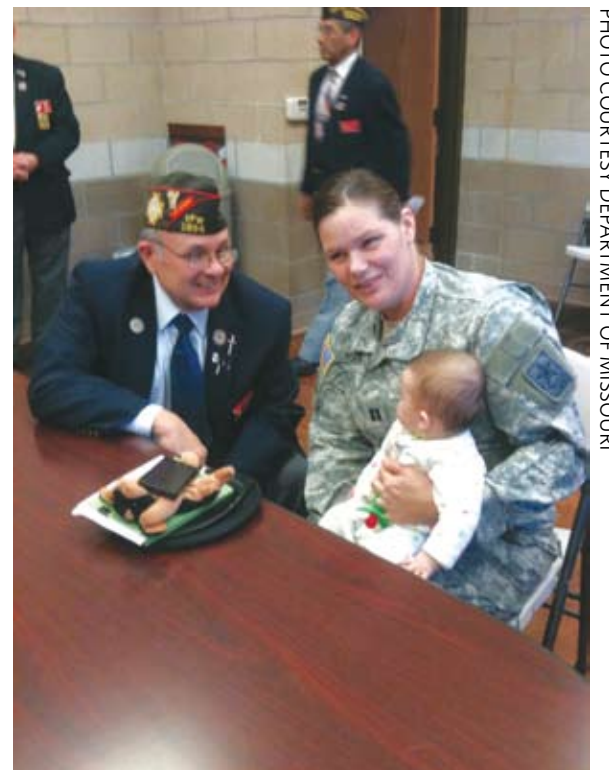


PHOTO COURTESY DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

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Send us photos of VFW members serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. You can earn your Post recognition and a free *Checkpoint* subscription.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

SPORTCLIPS DONATES \$400,000 TO UPLINK

In December, SportClips presented \$400,000 to VFW's Operation Uplink "Free Call Day" program to sponsor calls home for military personnel throughout 2011.



SportClips' donation is the single largest corporate gift to the program to

date. It will provide a Free Call Day for deployed and hospitalized American military personnel each month in 2011.

"We appreciate all those who worked to make this landmark donation possible," SportClips founder and VFW life member Gordon Logan said. "The memory of wanting to call home during my days overseas is one that stays with me."

The donation exceeds SportClips' 2010 goal of \$300,000 from the franchise's 740 locations across the country. SportClips (www.SportClips.com) began supporting Uplink in 2007 and has donated more than \$850,000 total, making it the largest corporate donor to the Free Call Day program.

Since 2006, Operation Uplink has provided more than 5 million free phone calls home.

REGISTER NOW FOR CONVENTION HOUSING

Make your housing arrangements now for the 112th National Convention Aug. 27-Sept. 1 in San Antonio, Texas.

Housing registration opened March 1. VFW National Headquarters mailed hard copies of housing, registration forms and information with election materials to each Post in late February.

Reservations should be made early, as rooms and specific room types are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive guaranteed rates, you must submit housing reservations by **July 19**.

VFW bylaws state each Post must register at least one delegate for the national convention.

Housing forms can be obtained from each Post's quartermaster or online at www.vfw.org (convention information located under *News and Events*)

Mail completed forms to:

VFW Housing Bureau
c/o 203 S. St. Mary's Street, Ste. 200
San Antonio, TX 78205

You also can call the housing bureau at **(210) 207-6734** or fax the form to **210-207-6702**.

For more housing, registration and general convention information, visit www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Events/VFW-National-Convention or call **(816) 968-1198**.

DISPOSE U.S. FLAGS BY BURNING

VFW National Headquarters has received several calls regarding the practice of cutting out stars from unusable U.S. flags to send to deployed troops. Although this is a thoughtful gesture and appears on the Internet in several places, it is **not** an appropriate act and should **not** be conducted by any VFW Post or Auxiliary.

In August 2000 at the VFW 101st National Convention, delegates passed a resolution establishing a U.S. flag disposal program by fire for Posts to conduct, privately or publicly as follows:

- The flag should be folded in its customary manner (see VFW Ritual Book).
- It is important that the fire be sizeable and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the flag.
- Place the flag on the fire.
- The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection.
- After the flag is completely consumed, the fire should be safely extinguished and the ashes buried.
- Make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES

Allen "Gunner" Kent, Adjutant General

Meet Face-to-Face with Your Lawmaker

VFW'S DEPARTMENT LEADERS have a unique opportunity awaiting them at this year's Legislative Conference. This will be their time to meet face-to-face with their lawmakers to promote VFW's Priority Goals.

On March 8, following Chief Richard Eubank's testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate VA committees, Department leaders are encouraged to visit their states' senators or representatives. Be sure to make an appointment for a 15-minute visit and arrive early.



Also, be prepared when you arrive. Take a letter and/or a fact sheet to the meeting so the lawmaker has a written reminder of your visit. Practice in advance what you want to say, and anticipate questions you think your lawmaker might ask. If you are asked a question you can't answer, don't bluff.

Make sure you relax. Being too intense can be counterproductive. Most legislators are

Find the full list of VFW's 2011 Priority Goals at www.vfw.org.

gregarious, friendly folks. This should be a fun experience.

Limit issues to no more than two. You can find a list of our current Priority Goals on VFW's website, www.vfw.org. Click on "VFW in D.C." and on the right-hand side of that page is a box with all goals organized in eight categories.

Present your ideas in a positive manner, and be respectful, professional and friendly. Never talk about money or campaign contributions. And while a sincere compliment is nice, be sparing with flattery.

When concluding the meeting, be sure to thank the lawmaker for his or her time and thoughts on issues discussed. After you return home, follow up with a brief thank-you note and a reminder of topics discussed.

These face-to-face meetings are critical for promoting VFW's agenda on Capitol Hill and you, as a VFW representative, are the face of the organization. This is important work. Without lobbying, legislators wouldn't know what their constituents need.

Larry Maher, Quartermaster General

Proper Insurance Coverage Protects Your Post

OUR POSTS ARE CHARGED with executing the fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational purposes of VFW. They also preserve and strengthen comradeship among members at the local level.

To execute this important mission, quartermasters must take care to protect their Posts' physical and financial resources. While Posts vary significantly in membership size, property ownership and financial assets, it's important for leadership to carry adequate insurance.

Property insurance provides security against damages to Post facilities, their contents and other property from fire and weather-related injuries, as well as theft and vandalism.

Liability insurance safeguards the Post if a member or guest is injured while on Post property or at a Post function. There is a misconception that liability insurance is necessary only for Posts who own or rent a building or have a large membership. In reality, any Post that holds meetings, sponsors events, conducts fundraisers or other functions should carry liability insurance—no matter the size or where an activity

takes place.

While it may not necessarily be required by VFW bylaws, it is the prudent thing to do. Accidents are too common to ignore the possibility of one occurring in a Post or at a Post-sponsored function.

Another important aspect Posts must consider is coverage for special events and fundraisers. While many types of events are covered under a standard liability policy, there are many other types of events and exposures that are not covered under those policies.

When planning an event or fundraiser, it is important to take into account whether the event will be covered under an existing policy or whether the Post will need to secure a policy or rider/endorsement written specifically to cover the unique exposures that might be present at the event.

For more than 20 years, VFW has sponsored a property and liability insurance program customized specifically for VFW Posts. For information about this program call the VFW Insurance and Member Services Department at 1-800-821-2606, option 1.

CHECKPOINT

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

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New Jersey Post Highlights Service with \$13,000 Raised for Amputee

LINDA PAGAN IS A BONA FIDE CHEERLEADER for the men and women of Post 133 in East Brunswick, N.J. And she has good reason to be.

As the family readiness support assistant for the 42nd Regional Support Group of the New Jersey National Guard, Pagan reached out to Post Commander Michael Goff to help with a special homecoming for the 50th Chemical Company.

She had been trying for a long time to raise money for a dinner cruise around New York City for the men and women of that company. With only a few weeks remaining until the homecoming, she contacted Goff.

"From that very first phone call, that Post has been there all the way," Pagan said. "They do everything for these troops, but they do so much more than that. People just don't understand how much this Post does for not just our community, but surrounding ones, too."

Goff recalls Pagan coming into the Post to ask for help and telling her he wished he would have known a few months earlier because they could have raised the money with no problem. Nevertheless, Goff began making calls to other veterans groups, and between a few, he came up with \$8,000, which put her "over the top" for what she needed.

"After that, we adopted the 50th," Goff said. "We host summer picnics for their families. We just do whatever we can do for them. After all, they are the ones serving now to protect us."

While the Post has about 250 members, only "20 or so" do the actual work. But Goff gives all credit to both the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries for their active roles in Post events.

"Truly, thanks to our auxiliaries, we are successful in all we do," he said.

One example of the Post's generosity is the Children's Christmas Party Fund. It's an ongoing project that collects money and items on behalf of six families requiring financial assistance. Goff works with the East Brunswick Recreation Department to select those families most in need. Then the Post provides Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner for the families, as well as gifts for all of the children.

This past Christmas was such a success because Post organizers ended up with more toys than children to receive them.

A little more than a month later, on Jan. 16, members sponsored a fundraiser spaghetti dinner for Afghanistan vet Marine Lance Cpl. Colin Pascik of Monroe, N.J.

Nearly \$13,000 was raised for the double amputee. Some 450 dinners were served in five hours at the Post.



Tommy Coohill, Post 133 senior vice commander, and Mike Mee, Men's Auxilliary president, properly fold a U.S. flag during a ceremony at the Post last year.

"This Post works religiously for others. They just don't stop. On any given day, at any given hour, you find Post members working in the community."

—Linda Pagan, a New Jersey National Guard family readiness support assistant

"The Friday night before we made 2,000 meatballs," Goff laughed. "We had some frozen hands."

The money was donated to the Road to Recovery Fund, started by Post 262 in nearby Monroe. The fund is to be used to make Pascik's home handicapped-accessible, and to eventually purchase an accessible vehicle for him, too.

Goff said money raised from the annual Post golf outing on July 18 also will go to Pascik. While the event usually brings in around \$7,000, he believes

it will be much greater this year because it will benefit Pascik.

Pagan, whose 23-year-old son, Max Rodriguez, is Post adjutant, recently wrote an editorial for the *East Brunswick Sentinel* in which she called Post 133 "the new and improved version of VFW."

"This Post works religiously for others," she later said. "They just don't stop. On any given day, at any given hour, you find Post members working in the community."



Above left: Members of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Post 133 in East Brunswick, N.J., pass out gifts to children whose families were having financial difficulties this past Christmas. Six families reaped the Post's generosity complete with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. It's an annual Post tradition. **Above right:** Post 133 Adjutant Max Rodriguez salutes during the November 2010 Veterans Day ceremony at the Post.



Wounded Marine Benefits From Generosity



Serving in Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Lance Cpl. Colin Pascik had been on patrol for two days last Aug. 22 in rural Helmand Province when his unit came under attack.

While returning fire, Pascik tripped a pressure-plate-activated improvised explosive device.

The 21-year-old infantryman lost parts of both legs in the blast. But after only a few months, he was walking on his new titanium prostheses and undergoing intensive therapy at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

"Ten steps and I am pooped," Pascik told the *San Diego Union-Tribune* in describing his new battle with physical therapy. Just watch though, he predicted—he will be snowboarding soon.

While his hometown of Monroe, N.J., offered him a job with the city, Pascik said he would have to think about it because he had planned on becoming a machinist.

When he was given a key to his hometown, he said he wished all disabled veterans received the same treatment.

"I wish everyone got it, but not every town is as good," he said.

Pascik is a life member of Post 262 in Monroe. His twin brother, Clayton, serves in the Navy.

To contribute to Pascik, write to:
**Colin Pascik Road to Recovery Fund
Monroe Community Center
120 Monmouth Road
Monroe, NJ 08831**

PHOTOS COURTESY LINDA PAGAN

PHOTO COURTESY OF NJPRESSMEDIA

Wyoming Post Helps Eagle Scout Send Pocket Flags to Deployed Soldiers

PHOTO COURTESY POST 4797



Community members from Afton, Wyo., assist Eagle Scout Tony Hansen by folding flags to distribute to deployed soldiers. Hansen partnered with Post 4797 to teach the community proper flag-folding techniques to fulfill his Eagle Scout requirements.

CHUCK SUTTER WAS IN AWE. When Boy Scout Tony Hansen approached him with the idea to give active-duty troops pocket-sized U.S. flags, Sutter, commander of Post 4797 in Afton, Wyo., was surprised that someone so young would be so passionate about motivating troops overseas.

"I think it's a very special tribute to our armed forces, especially for this young guy (Hansen) to have a desire to do this," Sutter said.

Hansen, inspired by the traditional flag service held at Eagle Scout courts, requested assistance from the Post to fold and distribute approximately 200 flags for soldiers to carry with them while on tour. Hansen purchased the flags through Pocket Flag Project, a non-profit group that aims to provide miniature flags to all deployed soldiers as a token of appreciation for their efforts. A paper insert offering prayers and thanks accompanied each folded flag.

To fulfill part of the Eagle Scout project requirements, Hansen taught more than 25 fellow Scouts and community members how to properly fold a flag. For Sutter, the educational part of the Eagle Scout project was just as important as sending the flags.

"More people need to stop and realize the folds of the flag have a very spiritual meaning," Sutter said. "They see someone folding the flag and think, 'That's really nice,' but they don't realize that each fold has a special meaning."

The Post sends annual Christmas packages to troops currently serving, and included the flags in this year's shipment. The Post adopted the 118th Engineer Co., 1457th Engineer Bn., from Salt Lake City to receive the holiday packages. The unit suffered one casualty on Dec. 2, when Sgt. 1st Class James E. Thode died from wounds in an IED explosion in Khost province, Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Trea Graham said she thought it was a nice touch to receive a flag in her package this year.

"You're going all these different places, but you just have this small backpack with everything you need for who knows how long," she said. "It's nice because it's

Flag Folds Symbolize Sacrifice

While these meanings are not officially part of the U.S. flag code, they are read during a traditional flag ceremony.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of **life**.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in the **eternal life**.

The third fold is made in honor and **remembrance** of veterans departing our ranks who gave for the defense of our country to attain a peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our **weaker nature**, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our **country**, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, an acclaimed Navy veteran of the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our **hearts** lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our **armed forces**, who protect our country and our flag against all her enemies.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered in to the **valley** of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to **womanhood**; for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the characters of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to **father**, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen, represents the lower portion of the **seal** of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of **eternity** and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

Source: www.usflag.org



small and you can either throw it in your bag or your pocket."

Staff Sgt. Lee Patterson thanked the Post for its efforts. "It is the support of people like you that make being away from home a little easier," Pennington wrote.

Sutter said he felt the flags added further meaning to the packages, and he was touched that the soldiers felt the same.

"That's what we're all about: we fight for freedoms," Sutter said. "The flag is a symbol of the United States and those freedoms."

For more about Pocket Flag Project, please visit www.pocketflagproject.com.

New Jersey Post Raises \$10,000 for Cancer-Stricken Young Woman

THIS PAST CHRISTMAS, 23-year-old Brooke Van Beveren received the "best gift anyone could ask for." She found out that she was cancer-free. But the months leading up to the good news were not easy.

To help ease the financial burden made worse by mounting medical bills, Brooke's uncle, Jimmy Van Beveren, talked with his comrades at Post 7165 in Clifton, N.J. The Post held a brunch fundraiser in September and raised \$10,000.

"It's our civic duty to help people when they are in need, so we're here to help," member Roland Van Winkle told the *Clifton Journal*. "Giving back to the community for people who are less fortunate is part of VFW's service."

VFW volunteers did the shopping and cooking for the event, which cost \$20 a ticket. Various city merchants helped in other ways, as well. The ShopRite in nearby Passaic, where Brooke's mom, Patricia, works, donated all the food and beverages for the brunch.

For Brooke, a recent graduate of Seton Hall University in New Jersey, the cancer diagnosis was sudden and unexpected. After not feeling well for a while, she was told that she basically had a lingering virus that was the result of her mononucleosis. When she told her doctor she had not had mono, more tests

were ordered.

After an inconclusive biopsy, the family had to wait two weeks to find out that Brooke had Hodgkin's lymphoma.

While the tests indicated that the cancer was only six months old, it progressed rapidly to Stage III. The lymph nodes on both sides of her diaphragm were affected.

She had the lymph nodes in her neck removed and endured chemotherapy, which made her sick for a week following each treatment.

Brooke took family leave from Brookstone, a retail store specializing in unique items, where she has worked for three years. That choice put an extra burden on her when it came to paying the medical bills.

Patricia calls the medical expenses "exorbitant."

For instance, Brooke made the decision to harvest her eggs so that she will still be able to one day have children. The 10 to 15 fertilization shots required to harvest eggs cost about \$18,000 apiece.

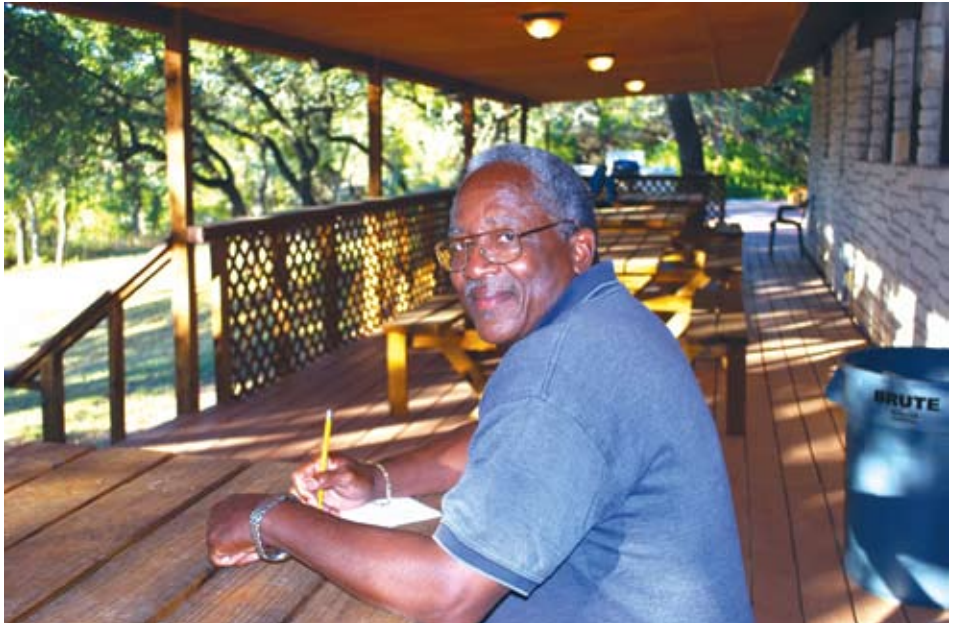
Today Brooke is undergoing radiation "as a preventative measure so it does not return." With a degree in English, she still hopes to be a teacher one day.



PHOTO COURTESY BROOKE VAN BEVEREN

Brooke Van Beveren is now cancer-free following weeks of chemotherapy to treat Hodgkin's lymphoma. VFW Post 7165 in Clifton, N.J., raised \$10,000 for Van Beveren's medical expenses.

'Veteran's Cove' in Texas Offers Family-Friendly Atmosphere



PHOTOS COURTESY OAK HILL GAZETTE

Left: A swimming pool is one of the family-friendly features Post 4443 hopes will encourage membership and community use. The Post sold its last property and purchased nine acres of land to expand the new Post. **Above:** Henry Irwin, Post 4443 commander, enjoys the new deck.

MEMBERS OF POST 4443 in Austin, Texas, have given their Post a facelift. They hope to attract a younger generation of veterans by creating a more family-friendly atmosphere.

"We're trying to change the image of the VFW Post," Commander Henry Irwin said. "It's no longer a group of old guys that sit around, smoke, drink, and talk about war. We've turned our VFW home into a veteran's compound."

The Post sold its last property in Bee Cave, Texas, for \$1.5 million and purchased its new site for \$1.1 million. The remaining money was used to renovate the facility to encourage more family-friendly activities.

Irwin said the Post began renovations in mid-August 2010 and opened the new facility in February of this year. Now situated on nine acres of land, the Post's site—called Veteran's Cove—includes a meeting building, five rental properties, a swimming pool, a playground, RV sites with water and electricity hook-ups, and a parking area. Other amenities consist of a memorial park, barbeque areas, an alcohol-free

"We're trying to change the image of the VFW Post."
—Henry Irwin, Post 4443 Commander

cantina, large televisions, pool tables and wireless Internet.

"It's such a beautiful thing now, it's ridiculous," Irwin said.

Aside from cosmetic changes, Irwin said the Post will provide activities for families. Those include movie nights, guest speakers, fishing trips and group outings to nearby sporting events.

"I'm operating on the premise that if we build it, they will come," Irwin said. "It started with an idea, and if we do it right, I believe it will increase membership."

Members of Post 4443 have joined forces with the student veterans group at Texas State University in San Marcos to promote the family-friendly facelift. The hope is that the updated features will encourage younger veterans to consider VFW as a viable organization.

"I think this, as an avenue, will be more enhancing for recruitment than just going to visit the Post or anything else," Irwin said. "It's a transition, and I believe the organization needs it."

The Post will serve as a meeting place for both veterans and the community. Plans are in place to allow outside parties to lease the facility for private functions, but Irwin said his primary focus is offering support for veterans.

"We're not taking this as a venture to make money," he said. "We're trying to provide some activities for the vets to come together in comradeship and have peace and solace with their families."

While Irwin recognizes that not all Posts have the monetary resources readily available for a structural overhaul, he does offer these words of advice for other Posts.

"Change the idea of the service that you're providing to the vets," Irwin said. "As important as the vets are, the families are equally important."

For more photos, visit the Post's website at www.vfw4443.org.

22,000 Pounds of Candy

VFW Posts in 38 Departments Pull Together for Overseas Troops

WHILE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN in 2009, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Kimberlee Keller got a craving for chocolate. Serving at Bagram Airfield some 30 miles northeast of Kabul, she headed to the Base Exchange only to find there was no chocolate to be had. That craving spearheaded a large movement by VFW Posts to get chocolate and other candy into the hands of the troops.

Keller sent an e-mail to Linda Ferguson, manager of special programs for VFW's National Military Services (NMS), in October 2009. She explained that she is part of a group called Top 3, which assists in boosting troop morale.

"It is my hope through your many VFW chapters that you could donate cases of assorted Christmas chocolate," she wrote. "Top 3 would like to give as many troops here a small Christmas gift bag filled with chocolate."

Ferguson, in turn, forwarded the e-mail to all NMS Department chairmen. That one e-mail resulted in 38 Departments shipping nearly 22,000 pounds of candy to Afghanistan.

The Department of Iowa was one of the top 10 donors. Iowa NMS Chairman Pat Stark contacted the Posts and Auxiliaries in the state. Several Posts jumped on board, but one stood out above the rest.



VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members from Post 839 in Marshalltown, Iowa, prepare 47 boxes of candy to send to troops overseas. Theirs was part of 22,000 pounds shipped to Afghanistan from VFW Posts across the nation.

Post 839 in Marshalltown, Iowa, responded with 47 boxes. Member Larry Larson was shopping at a Hy-Vee grocery store when he saw a cart full of leftover Halloween candy. Larson approached the manager and asked if the store would donate the candy to the troops.

"The store manager said, 'Let's take a walk,'" Larson recalled, "and led the way to the front of the store where there was a large display of candy. He said



PHOTOS COURTESY POST 839

VFW could have it all."

Post and Auxiliary members packaged and shipped the sweets before Thanksgiving.

Keller e-mailed Ferguson before December to tell her the mission was complete.

"This is just another example of VFW Posts acting quickly on behalf of our troops," Ferguson said. "There is never a request too big for our members."

World War II Veterans Leading VFW Posts from Coast to Coast

THE CHECKPOINT STAFF EXTENDS A HEARTY "THANK YOU" to all our World War II Post leaders, members and veterans. And we want to recognize those who still devote time and energy to VFW causes.

Listed below are 120 WWII veterans who serve VFW Posts in official capacities. *Checkpoint* has recognized a total of 948 such Post leaders since the March/April 2009 issue.

We have received an unexpectedly large number of names, so please be patient if you are waiting to see your submission printed. Names published to date are those received through approximately the end of January 2011. The backlog is significant, but not insurmountable. We will continue to feature this section in subsequent issues until every WWII Post leader whose name is submitted is recognized.

If you would like to recognize a WWII veteran who *currently* serves your Post, please send us his or her name, official Post position and your Post's location. Send information to:

Checkpoint

Attn: WWII Leaders

406 W. 34th Street

Kansas City, MO 64111

E-mail: tdyhouse@vfw.org

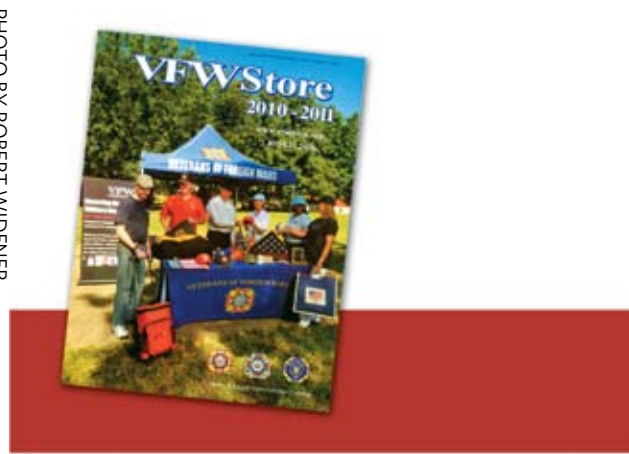


Name	Position	Post/Location
Richard F. Ament	Commander	Post 6125, Encampment, Wyo.
William Anderson	Guard	Post 4756, Linn, Mo.
Frank Arnone	Officer of the Day	Post 150, Corona, N.Y.
Hubert Barker	Quartermaster	Post 8546, Salem, N.H.
Ralph Barrale	Commander	Post 10350, Lake Saint Louis, Mo.
Joseph Berkey	Service Officer	Post 7310, Grosse Ile, Mich.
Michael Bielec	Officer of the Day	Post 8872, Port Sanilac, Mich.
Henry Boeckman	Color Bearer	Post 4756, Linn, Mo.
Chuck Boisjolie	Chaplain	Post 3839, Pequot Lake, Minn.
Robert Boskoski	Trustee	Post 511, New Britain, Conn.
William Brotman	Chaplain	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Benedict Brucia	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 6194, Yaphank, N.Y.
Leland F. Campbell	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 8988, Bishop, Calif.
Dane Capell	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 4787, Whitestone, N.Y.
Richard Carter	Quartermaster	Post 7310, Grosse Ile, Mich.
Henry Chappell	Trustee	Post 10350, Lake Saint Louis, Mo.
Howard Christopher	Trustee	Post 10350, Lake Saint Louis, Mo.
Guy Conversano	Judge Advocate	Post 9561, Willow Creek, Calif.
John G. Corley II	Surgeon	Post 8252, Gloucester, Va.
William Costello	Commander	Post 4787, Whitestone, N.Y.
Stan Crandall	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Archie Daugherty	Service Officer	Post 11426, Taylorsville, Ky.
Edward Devers	Trustee	Post 12055, Bradenton, Fla.
Lawrence J. DiPalma	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 6194, Yaphank, N.Y.
Frank Dippo	Quartermaster	Post 1664, Newton, Mass.
Bob Domanico	Chaplain	Post 4787, Whitestone, N.Y.
James B. Dunagan	Chaplain	Post 5106, Grove Hill, Ala.
Phillip Duncan	Commander	Post 1733, Knoxville, Tenn.
Alex Estevez	Chaplain	Post 846, Overland Park, Kan.
Jere Farley	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 6993, Goodlettsville, Tenn.
John Finkbohner	Judge Advocate	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Jack Foster	Trustee	Post 9561, Willow Creek, Calif.
Cy Fyhrlund	Quartermaster	Post 3839, Pequot Lake, Minn.
Ralph Gallaher	Trustee	Post 386, Cape May, N.J.
Bill "Red" Geenty	Commander	Post 5412, Burke, Va.
Lou George	Trustee	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Richard W. Gerhardt	Guard	Post 6125, Encampment, Wyo.
L. Dean Giacometti	Chaplain	Post 6979, Cincinnati, Ohio
Joe Giglio	Adjutant	Post 4787, Whitestone, N.Y.
Frank Giles	Service Officer	Post 846, Overland Park, Kan.
Edward Graham	Honor Guard	Post 9927, Dayton, Ohio
Richard Grosshardt	Trustee	Post 6125, Encampment, Wyo.
Calvin L. Hagler	Officer of the Day	Post 1123, Vallejo, Calif.
Emmett "Bud" Harter	Judge Advocate	Post 10350, Lake Saint Louis, Mo.
Albert Haslag	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 4756, Linn, Mo.
Bill Hawkins	Asst. Quartermaster	Post 386, Cape May, N.J.
Richard Haynes	Commander	Post 1956, Sun City, Calif.
H.R. Herring	Trustee	Post 6125, Encampment, Wyo.
William A. Hollingsworth	Trustee	Post 316, Little Egg Harbor, N.J.
Albert Hoste	Officer of the Day	Post 4756, Linn, Mo.
Barney Humphrey	Judge Advocate	Post 9251, Rochester, N.Y.
John J. Iannotte	Surgeon	Post 316, Little Egg Harbor, N.J.
Lee James	Trustee	Post 6993, Goodlettsville, Tenn.
Gerald H. Jones	Chaplain	Post 3928, Benicia, Calif.
Joe Kittel	Trustee	Post 386, Cape May, N.J.
Victor Kurer	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 8171, Muskego, Wis.

Name	Position	Post/Location
Leonard Lancaster	Commander	Post 7695, Ansted, W. Va.
Melvin Longfield, Jr.	Adjutant	Post 316, Little Egg Harbor, N.J.
Edward Majzlik	Trustee	Post 4644, Inkster, Mich.
Albert Marhefka	Trustee	Post 7310, Grosse Ile, Mich.
Jack McCarty	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3426, Columbus, Ohio
Harold McElreath	Trustee	Post 4415, Hobart, Okla.
Kenneth D. McKendry	Guard	Post 1123, Vallejo, Calif.
Warren Meyer	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3623, Cheboygan, Mich.
John Mizera	Historian	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Edward Murphy	Officer of the Day	Post 7310, Grosse Ile, Mich.
John P. Murray	Chaplain	Post 316, Little Egg Harbor, N.J.
Dewey Neddermeyer	Trustee	Post 8872, Port Sanilac, Mich.
Emery Nelson	Executive Board	Post 3839, Pequot Lake, Minn.
Louis Neumann	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3623, Cheboygan, Mich.
Eugene Nicholson	Service Officer	Post 10350, Lake Saint Louis, Mo.
Henry Nilges	Adjutant	Post 4756, Linn, Mo.
Ronnie Nirote	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 3426, Columbus, Ohio
Alonza W. Olivis	Trustee	Post 8252, Gloucester, Va.
Joseph O'Mara	Surgeon	Post 8872, Port Sanilac, Mich.
Joseph D. Pallotta	Judge Advocate	Post 316, Little Egg Harbor, N.J.
Joe Panzardi	Quartermaster	Post 4787, Whitestone, N.Y.
Gust Pappas	Chaplain	Post 7310, Grosse Ile, Mich.
Ernest Parish	Chaplain	Post 7180, Owasso, Okla.
Amidio Passero	Adjutant	Post 3426, Columbus, Ohio
Boyd E. Paul	Adjutant	Post 5644, Snow Shoe, Pa.
Charles Price	Historian	Post 9251, Rochester, N.Y.
Joe Pullaro	Officer of the Day	Post 6253, Berlin, N.J.
Edwin Pyrzyński	Service Officer	Post 3623, Cheboygan, Mich.
Danny Quill	Sergeant-at-Arms	Post 6393, Yardley, Pa.
James Ralph	Adjutant	Post 6993, Goodlettsville, Tenn.
Joe Raso	Surgeon	Post 6253, Berlin, N.J.
Paul Rigby	Trustee	Post 6253, Berlin, N.J.
Ken Robinson	Trustee	Post 1741, Auburn, Wash.
Harry Robinson	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 7149, Houston, Miss.
Jim Rodan	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 386, Cape May, N.J.
Jim Roney	Chaplain	Post 386, Cape May, N.J.
George Rufolo	Commander	Post 150, Corona, N.Y.
Alexander Samaras	Commander	Post 3510, Georgetown, Ill.
Jack Schwartz	Asst. Quartermaster	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Herb Seidman	Adjutant	Post 6253, Berlin, N.J.
Joseph Sferrazza	Commander	Post 6194, Yaphank, N.Y.
Al Shannon	Chaplain	Post 8615, Long Beach, Calif.
William Sharra, Jr.	Adjutant	Post 481, Export, Pa.
Joseph A. Shearrer	Commander	Post 257, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
Bill Slede	Trustee	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Dr. Herman K. Smith	Trustee	Post 7149, Houston, Miss.
Anthony Stabile	Commander	Post 7374, York, Pa.
William F. Steele, Sr.	Commander	Post 6993, Goodlettsville, Tenn.
Henry Stuehmayer	Trustee	Post 1929, Petaluma, Calif.
Darwin J. Thomas, Jr.	Officer of the Day	Post 11426, Taylorsville, Ky.
Charles Thompson	Trustee	Post 8252, Gloucester, Va.
Merle Van Sickle	Buddy Poppy Chrmn.	Post 8872, Port Sanilac, Mich.
Jim Viola	Commander	Post 2342, Fort Lee, N.J.
James Ware, Jr.	Quartermaster	Post 995, Bitely, Mich.
Vern Warfield	Quartermaster	Post 9251, Rochester, N.Y.
Frank West	Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 8734, Little Valley, N.Y.
John Westergom	Adjutant	Post 511, New Britain, Conn.
Charles E. Westlake	Commander	Post 10040, Sun Valley, Calif.
Nelson E. Whitsel	Commander	Post 5644, Snow Shoe, Pa.
Richard Williams	Trustee	Post 6125, Encampment, Wyo.
James A. Wilson	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 9132, Schenectady, N.Y.
Alexander Wojtera	Chaplain	Post 511, New Britain, Conn.
Robert Workman	Quartermaster	Post 9431, Yucca Valley, Calif.
Theron "Red" Wright	Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Post 8383, New Blaine, Ark.



PHOTO BY ROBERT WIDENER



The VFW Store
 @ www.vfwstore.org
 ☎ 1-800-821-2606
 scutright@vfw.org

The VFW Store's 20-person staff (15 are pictured) accepts and fulfills some 300 orders per day, which brings in \$900,000 a year for VFW programs and an additional \$300,000 for the Ladies Auxiliary.

VFW Store is 'One-Stop-Shopping Resource'

Members are Encouraged to Suggest Merchandise Ideas for VFW Store

THE VFW STORE has a message for all members: "We welcome your product suggestions and your feedback."

Coming up with products for both VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members is no easy task. A product review committee evaluates merchandise and discusses ideas offered by members.

"We also encourage input from our members," said Bob Greene, VFW's assistant quartermaster general. "We survey our Departments and gladly meet one-on-one with members who have suggestions."

VFW Store's Marketing Assistant, Sonja Cutright, noted that some of the top-selling items are those thought up by members—boonie hats, grave markers and pre-tied "official ties" are a few.

"Another is the canopy tent," she said. "Several years ago the Membership Department offered a tent for around \$1,000, which wasn't affordable for most. By buying in bulk, we were able to purchase durable tents at a more affordable rate."

Greene added that VFW is one of the top sellers of U.S. flags in the country.

While the 112-page merchandise catalog is mailed each August, new products always are being added and promoted at www.vfwstore.org and through e-mail campaigns. Cutright said that only those with e-mail addresses on file with the store are privy to the special offers sent via e-mail. She encouraged all members to provide their e-mail addresses.

She also added that if members don't see what they want, they should just call.

"We work with more than 200 vendors across the country," Cutright said, "and chances are we can find what you need at a better price. We want to be your one-stop-shopping resource for VFW merchandise."

While the "typical" VFW Store customers are VFW and Ladies Auxiliary officers, Greene says they are marketing to the average member. He further noted that it has long been a misconception among members that orders need to be funneled through their Post and Auxiliary officers.

"This is simply not true at all," he emphasized. "We sell to everyone. You don't need a middle man to order from us."

through the VFW Store. Otherwise, special permission to use the logo must be granted," Greene said. "VFW bylaws are very specific about the use of the Cross of Malta, and it cannot be used without authorization."

\$5 MILLION IN SALES

In September 2009, the Ladies Auxiliary Supply Department merged with the VFW Store.

Today, the 20-person operation takes and fulfills some 300 orders per day. Sales for an average year are \$5 million. Of that, \$900,000 goes back to VFW and an additional \$300,000 goes to the Ladies Auxiliary and Departments.

"This is hands-down the best reason to buy from the store opposed to anywhere else," Cutright said. "Your money stays in the organization and is used to help veterans, military troops and their families."

Greene says he's confident that the still-recent partnership will further strengthen sales.

"Since this merger, we have combined our purchasing power to reduce prices and it shows," he said. "It really has been successful for both organizations."

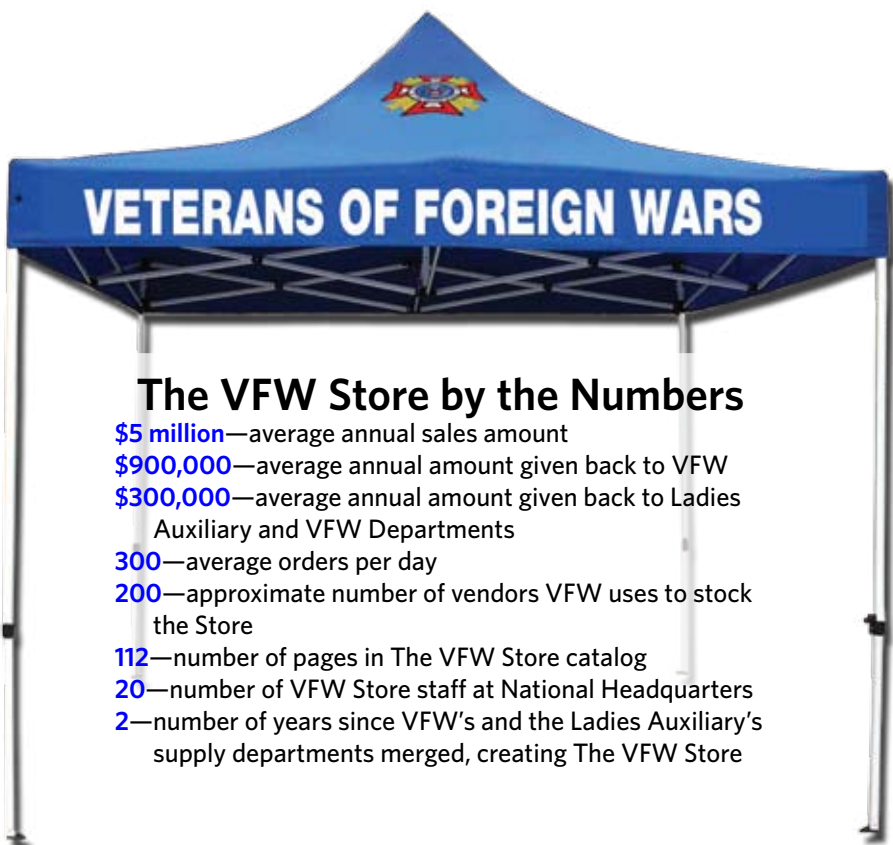
Ladies Auxiliary National Secretary-Treasurer Jan Tittle agrees.

"We are into our second year of the merger with the VFW Store and everything seems to be going rather well," Tittle said. "We look forward to many years of success."

While popular items such as women's jewelry, clothing and products containing the Ladies Auxiliary logos are still available, Greene said the store is constantly thinking of even more contemporary merchandise to attract a broader audience.

"But let me reiterate, we want ideas from the field," Greene said. "We're open to all suggestions."

Access the VFW Store's website at www.vfwstore.org, or call toll-free at 1-800-821-2606.



The VFW Store by the Numbers

- \$5 million**—average annual sales amount
- \$900,000**—average annual amount given back to VFW
- \$300,000**—average annual amount given back to Ladies Auxiliary and VFW Departments
- 300**—average orders per day
- 200**—approximate number of vendors VFW uses to stock the Store
- 112**—number of pages in The VFW Store catalog
- 20**—number of VFW Store staff at National Headquarters
- 2**—number of years since VFW's and the Ladies Auxiliary's supply departments merged, creating The VFW Store



Posts with the Most

VFW POSTS OF 1,000 MEMBERS
OR MORE AS OF FEB. 14, 2011

Rank	Post No.	Location	Members
1	1114	Evansville, IN	2,549
2	1503	Dale City, VA	2,120
3	9972	Sierra Vista, AZ	1,914
4	8862	Vicenza, Italy	1,762
5	6506	Rosedale, MD	1,732
6	628	Sioux Falls, SD	1,637
7	4647	North Highlands, CA	1,630
8	392	Virginia Beach, VA	1,621
9	27	Wiesbaden, Germany	1,617
10	2485	Angeles City, Philippines	1,567

Rank	No.	Location	Members
11	4372	Odessa, TX	1,558
12	6873	Abilene, TX	1,457
13	9785	Eagle River, AK	1,449
14	1146	St Clair Shores, MI	1,444
15	972	Terre Haute, IN	1,417
16	63	Boise, ID	1,389
17	1296	Bloomington, MN	1,387
18	7234	Ocean View, DE	1,374
19	2503	Omaha, NE	1,359
20	10097	Fort Myers Beach, FL	1,353
21	5958	Titusville, PA	1,344
22	7330	Oakville, CT	1,343
23	7686	Alamogordo, NM	1,338
24	1079	Elyria, OH	1,325
25	1599	Chambersburg, PA	1,294
26	4809	Norfolk, VA	1,275
27	2111	Chula Vista, CA	1,270
28	9534	Mannheim, Germany	1,246
29	1308	Alton, IL	1,214
30	1326	Bismarck, ND	1,208
30	1273	Rapid City, SD	1,208
30	788	Cedar Rapids, IA	1,208
33	8951	West York, PA	1,207
34	1512	Lemon Grove, CA	1,182
35	10692	Grafenwoehr, Germany	1,181
36	401	Albuquerque, NM	1,174
37	10047	North Las Vegas, NV	1,165
38	10420	Murrells Inlet, SC	1,145
39	10436	Kitzingen, Germany	1,127
40	969	Tacoma, WA	1,124
41	549	Tucson, AZ	1,112
42	5555	Richfield, MN	1,087
43	3282	Port Orange, FL	1,083
44	379	Yakima, WA	1,079
45	1170	Middletown, KY	1,071
46	7175	Millington, TN	1,048
47	7564	West Fargo, ND	1,026
48	10209	Spring Hill, FL	1,025
49	8541	San Antonio, TX	1,018
50	7674	Fort Walton Beach, FL	1,010
51	3579	Park Ridge, IL	1,009

Publicize Your Post and Active-Duty Members

‘War Zone’ Photos Can Earn You a Free Checkpoint Subscription

The *Checkpoint* staff wants to help you publicize your Post while giving some well deserved recognition to your members serving overseas. We’ll also give you a chance to receive a free, three-year subscription to *Checkpoint*.

We’re seeking photos of VFW members *currently* serving on active duty in either Afghanistan or Iraq. If we publish your photo—in *Checkpoint’s* “Photos from the War Zones” section—you (or someone you choose) can receive a free, three-year subscription to *Checkpoint*, a \$15 value.

Along with the photo, please include the GI’s name, rank, service, unit, location in the war zone and overseas e-mail address. Send the photos and information to:

Checkpoint

War Zone Photos
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