



# VFW Community Achievements

*Almost from its inception, VFW has engaged in service to communities. Assistance to fellow Americans is a cornerstone of VFW's foundation.*

**Mission:** *VFW is an organization of war veterans committed to ensuring rights, remembering sacrifices, promoting patriotism, performing community services and advocating for a strong national defense.*

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| <p>1915 Post 2100 helps sponsor a Boy Scout troop in Everett, Wash.</p> <p>1916 First national VFW essay contest held.</p> <p>1922 Buddy Poppy Program begins.</p> <p>1923 VFW enters the war on drugs by printing a resolution calling for an international conference.</p> <p>1927 VFW donates \$10,000 to Mississippi Valley flood victims.</p> <p>1930 First VFW scholarship award (\$300) goes to a Boy Scout.</p> <p>1936 Boy Scout-VFW plan of cooperation is signed.</p> <p>1938 VFW supports the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.</p> <p>1940 VFW Junior Rifle Clubs are formed with National Rifle Association.</p> <p>1942 VFW Aviator Cadet Program begins.</p> <p>1950 A cooperative disaster-relief plan is developed with the Red Cross.</p> <p>1952 The Dunn family (Kansas flood victims) wins a \$75,000 farm in Washington courtesy of the VFW.</p> <p>1953 VFW National Teen-er Baseball: First tournament is held in Hershey Park, Pa.</p> <p>1956 150,000 kids take part in the national VFW marble competition.</p> <p>1958 VFW becomes full partner with Voice of Democracy (VOD).</p> <p>1959 Minnesota VFW/Ladies Auxiliary raise \$325,000 for dedication of the VFW Cancer Research Center at the Univ. of Minn. (Minneapolis).</p> <p>1961 VFW assumes primary sponsorship of VOD—within four years 262,000 students participate.</p> <p>1962 Lite-a-Bike program: a \$300,000 project with 3-M Co. of St. Paul, Minn., provides “Scotchlite” reflector tape—50,000 VFW members from 4,500 Posts participate.</p> <p>1964 VFW/Ladies Auxiliary contribute nearly \$100,000 to earthquake victims in Anchorage, Alaska.</p> <p>1970 Drive-to-Survive program begins.</p> <p>1973 Drug Awareness program begins.</p> <p>1978 Women admitted to VFW.</p> <p>1979 VFW Political Action Committee forms.</p> <p>1980 Minnesota VFW Posts sponsor the U.S. hockey team in the Winter Olympics.</p> <p>1983 VFW agrees to permit the Red Cross to use VFW facilities as shelters and relief centers during national disasters and emergencies.</p> | <p>1986 VFW donates \$122,000 to the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund.</p> <p>1990 VFW contributes \$49,000 to California earthquake victims.</p> <p>1992 VFW disburses \$197,000 to relieve victims of <i>Hurricane Andrew</i> and other disasters.</p> <p>1993 Relief funds total \$500,000</p> <p>1995 Youth Essay Contest (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades) begins.</p> <p>1997 Buddy Poppy celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.</p> <p>1998 VFW Posts raise \$100,000 for the March of Dimes.</p> <p>1999 VOD gives \$2.5 million in scholarship monies to high school students.<br/>VFW donates \$50,000 and 25,000 reprints of its war chronology to Vietnam Veterans Memorial’s <i>Young American Vietnam War Era Studies Project</i>.</p> <p>2000 VFW distributes 60,000 audio books to armed forces worldwide through <i>Operation Yarnspinner</i>.</p> <p>2002 VFW contributes \$110,000 to diabetes research.<br/>VFW equally distributes \$120,000 among families of active-duty personnel killed in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon.</p> <p>2003 VFW partners with USA Freedom Corps homefront initiative.</p> <p>2004 VFW establishes relationships with the National Council for Social Studies (NCCS) and National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).</p> <p>2005 VFW disburses \$560,000 to Gulf Coast veterans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.<br/>VFW distributes 5,000 copies of CD entitled, “<i>Vietnam: A Nation Remembers</i>.”<br/>VFW establishes VFW Military Scholarship program.<br/>VFW expands Patriot’s Pen Essay Competition.</p> <p>2007 VFW Radiothon raises nearly \$100,000 for Unmet Needs.</p> <p>2008 VFW pledges \$1 million to construction of the Vietnam Veterans Education Center.</p> <p>2010 VFW increases Voice of Democracy National Scholarships to \$150,000.<br/>VFW raises over \$20,000 to assist service members with family in Haiti following the January earthquake.</p> <p>2011 VFW pledges \$500,000 toward the construction of the Veterans Hall in the National Museum of the United States Army.</p> |
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