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# VFW Diverse Endeavors

VFW honors veterans through memorial fundraising efforts, sponsorship of special events for disabled vets and by symbolically recognizing volunteer service. Donations also help victims of natural disasters and less-fortunate children.

## Media Contacts:

Jerry Newberry, VFW communications director, 816-968-1168, [jnewberry@vfw.org](mailto:jnewberry@vfw.org)

Joe Davis, Washington Office public affairs director, 202-608-8357, [jdavis@vfw.org](mailto:jdavis@vfw.org)

## Honoring Disabled Vets

### • *Special Events*

VFW sponsors special trips for Purple Heart recipients. Past events include “Return to Vietnam” and other events.

### • *Disabled Veterans Hunt*

VFW annually pays travel expenses for four Vietnam War veteran amputees, who sustained their wounds in combat, to go to a hunting lodge in Montana for an antelope hunt. In addition, VFW picks up the tab for three of the vets’ lodging, meals and the accompanying hunting-guide services.

## Memorials

In fulfilling its pledge to remember the nation’s war dead, VFW promotes national memorials for veterans of all wars. Additionally, thousands of memorials have been constructed across the nation through local VFW Posts.

### • *National WWI Memorial*

VFW gave the memorial a \$250,000 grant to help expand the Liberty Memorial Museum, which houses the nation's most comprehensive collection of World War I historical materials.

### • *National WWII Memorial*

VFW reached its five-year fundraising goal of \$6 million for the memorial’s construction in only two years. The donation ranks as the largest from a veterans group.

### • *Korean War Memorial*

Members donated \$600,000 toward the construction of the Korean War Memorial. The donation ranks among the highest.

### • *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*

VFW contributed over \$300,000 toward building “The Wall”— all 58,000 Americans who died as a result of the Vietnam War are listed. VFW was the first major organization to contribute.

### • *Women in Military Service to America Memorial*

VFW contributed \$70,000 toward construction costs.

### • *Disabled Veterans for Life Memorial*

VFW contributed \$100,000 toward construction costs.

### • *Vietnam Veterans Education Center*

VFW contributed over \$648,000 toward construction of the Education Center.

### • *National Museum of the United States Army*

VFW pledged \$500,000 toward the construction of the Veterans Hall in the museum.

## Awards

Outstanding police officers, firefighters, EMTs and other first responders are recognized annually by VFW for their work in the community.

## National Home for Children

Children, youth and family of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members who have nowhere to turn find a safe haven on this 629-acre VFW campus in Eaton Rapids, Mich. The privately funded facility is a living memorial to VFW and to all veterans.

## Disaster Relief

Since 1964, VFW National Headquarters has donated nearly \$2 million in matching grants to state VFW relief efforts, including \$250,000 for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and \$100,000 aid to VFW Department of California following the 2007 California wildfires. VFW also raised over \$20,000 to assist service members with family in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake, and in December 2010 donated \$57,000 in financial relief to Fort Leonard Wood soldiers affected by an EF-3 tornado. In April 2011 VFW provided nearly \$20,000 in aid to service members stationed at tornado-stricken military bases across the southern states.