

# NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



## A DONATION OF

# \$20

### ENSURES THE VFW CAN

- ★ Educate **30** separating service members on how to receive their well-earned VA benefits
- ★ Provide **500** minutes of phone time to homesick American troops stationed in the Middle East
- ★ Serve **5** morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat
- ★ Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war



"Don't go through it alone. A VFW Service Officer can help. They know who to call ... who to

write ... who to appeal to. Seek help and you shall find it."

*Vietnam veteran Michael Prata on receiving word that he was deemed 100% service disabled and awarded full benefits. Prata suffered from prostate cancer connected to herbicide exposure in Vietnam. Lost military records once sealed his fate, but the VFW stepped in and found the proof he needed.*

As the nation's oldest major veterans' organization, The VFW has an impeccable and longstanding record of service and stewardship. More than 4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

# 80%

Over the last decade, **approximately 80% of support received from VFW members and patriotic Americans** was applied directly to veterans service, community service, legislative advocacy and military service programs worldwide.

# 262

Number of service officers in the VFW's nationwide network who fight for veterans to receive the VA benefits they deserve.

# \$3.7 billion

The amount in VA benefits the VFW network helped 125,000 veterans recover in 2012.

# 23

Number of times the VFW has testified before Congress in the last 12 months alone. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

# \$4.8 million

Value of emergency grants awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. Nearly **half** of the funds covered basic housing needs.

# 7.4 million

Number of connections between deployed service members and loved ones made possible by the VFW's "Free Call Days."

# 1,775,427

Number of service members and their family members hosted at VFW Military Assistance Program (MAP) events since 2005. Quite a display of gratitude!

# \$3 million

Amount of scholarships and other incentives the VFW awards annually to middle and high school students through two major patriotic essay competitions.



"Sometimes we just need a little break in our lives to catch up and get ahead. Having one less worry has allowed me to focus on my husband—making sure he gets the care and support he needs."

*Military spouse Michele Hyde, whose husband Jason retired from the Marine Corps after a long struggle with PTSD. The Hydys received an emergency grant from the VFW to help cover past-due bills. With debt off his mind, Jason got the inpatient care he needed to begin to heal.*

Learn more about the VFW's programs and services at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

# MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



## THE VFW BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly 2 million

Number of VFW, Ladies Auxiliary VFW and Men's Auxiliary members

7,034

Number of VFW Posts worldwide

100%

Percentage increase in the number of women VFW members since 2010



## HELPING VETERANS GET JUSTICE

125,022

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's nationwide force of 1,200 VA-accredited service officers in 2012

11,613

Number of VA claims filed by VFW Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) offices in 2012

16

Number of Benefits Delivery at Discharge offices across the nation, including military district of Washington, D.C. area



## HELPING STRUGGLING MILITARY FAMILIES

3,532

Number of emergency grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Unmet Needs** since 2004

\$2,284,655.05

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Unmet Needs** covering housing for struggling military families since 2004

1,812

Number of military families who have received assistance with housing needs since 2004



## IMPROVING LIFE IN AMERICA

11.9 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually

\$48.7 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members

The VFW has fought for veterans and their families since 1899.



"The VFW grant came when we needed it most. We were almost on the streets.

When my family was at its lowest—when I was struggling to survive—my military family was there for us."

*Military spouse Stephanie Garritson on the emergency assistance she received from the VFW. Her family was left in financial peril after her husband Robert's routine gallbladder surgery went wrong.*



## HONORING THE FALLEN

10 million

Number of VFW "Buddy®" Poppies distributed by the VFW last year

\$13 million

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy" Poppy® program for needy veterans



## INSPIRING PATRIOTISM IN YOUNG PEOPLE

39,571

Number of high school students who competed in the 2012-13 Voice of Democracy competition

104,543

Number of students who competed in the 2012-13 Patriot's Pen competition

Updated December 2013

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