

FACT SHEET

As the nation's oldest major war 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.

YOUR DONATION OF

\$20

ENSURES THE VFW CAN

Educate a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

Provide training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war.

Serve 5 morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat.



2,100+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

39

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

\$7.7 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in earned benefits from the VA — which includes \$1.2 billion in new claims in 2017.

2.2 million+

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

28

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.

\$3 million

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

\$10.5 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 43% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

\$4.9 million+

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 1,115 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



The VFW by the numbers

More than 1.6 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

6,295

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



Helping veterans get justice

101,166

Number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in 2017.

16,220

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in 2017.

24

Number of VFW Pre-Discharge offices across the nation, including the military district of Washington, D.C., area.



Helping struggling military families

8,864

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

\$4,371,904

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

2,881

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



Improving life in America

8.8 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$52.1 million

Amount donated annually to local community service projects by VFW members.



1899

Year the VFW started to fight for veterans, service members and their families.



Honoring the fallen

9.3 million+

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

\$12 million

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



Inspiring patriotism in young people

33,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2017–18 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

100,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2017–18 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.

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