

# VFW FACT SHEET



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.



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
- ★ Help cover rent, utilities or groceries for a military family struggling with the hardships of war
- ★ Provide training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services
- ★ Serve 5 morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat

## 1,922

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

## \$7 billion

The total amount VFW helped veterans recoup in earned benefits from the VA — which includes \$1.2 billion in new claims in 2016.

## 26

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.

## \$7.9 million

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 49% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

## 30

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

## 2 million+

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

## \$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.

## \$3.6 million+

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 825 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.

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

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## NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

# MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW



## 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.

## 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.

## THE VFW BY THE NUMBERS

### Nearly 1.7 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

### 6,390

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.

## HELPING VETERANS GET JUSTICE

### 116,791

Number of veterans VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in 2016.

### 15,398

Number of VA claims filed by VFW Pre-Discharge offices in 2016.

### 24

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

## HELPING STRUGGLING MILITARY FAMILIES

### 4,852

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

### \$3,856,000

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

### 2,576

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

## INSPIRING PATRIOTISM IN YOUNG PEOPLE

### 46,000+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2016-17 Voice of Democracy competition.

### 122,000+

Number of students who competed in the 2016-17 Patriot's Pen competition.

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

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