



# Purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars

*The purpose is fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government and the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever.*

## What Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars do in your community.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES, VOICE OF DEMOCRACY & YOUTH ESSAY**

The VFW sponsors a wide range of youth sports and is a major sponsor of Boy Scout Troops. Annually, over 200,000 students compete in the Voice of Democracy Program and Youth Essay Program for Local, District, State and National scholarships.

### **PATRIOTIC ACTIVITIES**

Distribution of American Flags to schools and churches, observances of patriotic holidays, parades, and the presentation of patriotic materials to schools are just a few ways in which the VFW promotes patriotism.

### **AID TO SCHOOLS & CHURCHES**

Annually, the VFW Posts provide schools and churches with teaching aids and materials that will assist in molding our nation's youth into outstanding citizens. Posts also assist with fundraisers, donations, and the sponsorship of various competitions and activities with the school.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Because the VFW is respected as a vital and growing organization with the courage and commitment to speak the truth and represent the interests of all Veterans, Congress knows that the VFW strength can rally members to the cause.

The VFW has always met the challenge in the fight for Veterans' Entitlements, National Security and Member Benefits. Using its 1.9 million member strength, the VFW protects your rights as a Veteran and fights off the efforts of those who constantly undermine veterans' entitlements.

### **HELP TO OBTAIN BENEFITS**

These specialized personnel, through their skill in the highly technical field of service work, can be a big help to you when it is necessary to gather evidence to help support your claim for specific entitlements. Among the entitlements you may have earned are Service Connected Compensation or Non-Service Connected Pension, Hospitalization and Medical Treatment, Home Loans, Vocational Rehabilitation - Education and Training.

### **LEGISLATIVE SERVICE**

The VFW State and National Legislative Staff works behind the scenes for you on Capitol Hill to accomplish the organization's objectives. This is important to you because the close companionship of Veterans, who have interests or concerns in common with each other, acts as a powerful influence on your behalf. You are apprised of veterans related legislation through the Gopher Overseas', the VFW Magazine, and correspondence with members.

### **BUDDY POPPY PROMOTION**

The annual distribution of VFW 'Buddy Poppy' Poppies has been held continuously since 1922. The sale of an artificial poppy to the public as a means of raising funds to aid the Disabled Veteran, was inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields" and is conducted by the VFW annually around Memorial Day.

### **SAFETY, HEALTH & CIVIC PRIDE**

Among the Safety projects are Drive to Survive, Lite-A-Bike and Home Security, while Health Projects include Blood Pressure and Diabetes checks plus distribution of literature. Civic Improvement involves such environmental projects as litter pickups, beautification and planting of trees, flowers and shrubs.

### **NATIONAL SECURITY**

Embracing a National Defense program that fully meets America's security at home and abroad, the VFW also recognizes that the military is a professional calling. As such, the VFW remains completely committed to fair and just treatment for those who serve.

### **MEMBER BENEFITS**

Your membership entitles you to *VFW Insurance Programs* (including \$2,500 Personal Accident Protection, Group Term, Cash Value, Life, Medicare Supplemental) - *Discount Merchandise Buying Program* (Major Appliances, Household Items) *VFW Travel Services* (Discounted Airfares, Cruises, Vacation Packages), *Discount Eyewear Program, and others.* (It is suggested that you contact a local Post Quartermaster for more details on ALL Member Benefit Programs.)

## **ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

Campaign Medal	Military Service	Period During Which Issued
Expeditionary	Navy/Marine Corps	12 Feb. 1874 - Open
China Service	Navy	7 July 1939 - 7 Sept. 1939 2 Sept. 1945 - 1 Apr. 1957
American Defense	Army-Navy	8 Sept. 1939 - 7 Dec. 1941 (with Foreign class)
American Campaign	Army-Navy (30 consecutive days or 60 days non-consecutive duty outside continental limits of the United States)	7 Dec. 1941 - 2 Mar. 1946
Asiatic-Pacific	Army-Navy	7 Dec. 1941 - 2 Mar. 1946
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign	Army-Navy	7 Dec. 1941 - 8 Nov. 1945
Army of Occupation	Italy (30 consecutive days) Germany (except West Berlin)	9 May 1945 - 15 Sept. 1947 9 May 1945 - 5 May 1955
	Korea	3 Sept. 1945-28 June 1949
	Japan	3 Sept. 1945 - 27 Apr. 1952
	Austria	9 May 1945 - 27 July 1955
	Germany (West Berlin)	9 May 1945 - 2 Oct. 1990
	Italy	8 May 1945 - 15 Dec. 1947
	Trieste	08 May 1945 - 26 Oct. 1954
	Germany (except West Berlin)	8 May 1945 - 5 May 1955
	Austria	8 May 1945 - 25 Oct. 1955
	Asiatic Pacific	2 Sept. 1945 - 27 Apr. 1952
Korean Service	Army, Navy, Air Force	27 June 1950-27 July 1954
Navy & Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal		
	Cuban Military Operation	3 Jan. 1961 - 23 Oct. 1962
	Thailand Military Operation	16 May 1962 - 10 Aug. 1962
	Iranian, Yemen & Indian Ocean Operation	8 Dec. 1978 - 6 June 1979 21 Nov. 1979 - 20 Oct. 1981
	Lebanon	20 Aug. 1982 - 31 May 1993
	Libyan Expedition	20 Jan. 1986 - 27 June 1986
	Persian Gulf	0 Feb. 1987 - 23 July 1987
	Panama - (pre and post invasion)	01 Apr. 1988 - 19 Dec. 1989 1 Feb. 1990 - 13 June 1990
	Operation Sharp Edge - Liberia	5 Aug. 1990 - 21 Feb. 1991
	Operation Distant Runner - Rwanda (11th Marine Expeditionary Unit USS Peleliu)	07-18 Apr. 1994
Vietnam Service Medal		4 July 1965 - 28 Mar. 1973
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty)		
	Lebanon	1 July 1958 - 1 Nov. 1958
	Taiwan Straits	23 Aug. 1958 - 1 Jan. 1959
	Quemoy & Matsu Island	23 Aug. 1958 - 1 June 1963
	Vietnam	01 July 1958 - 03 July 1965
	Congo	14 July 1960 - 1 Sept. 1962
	Laos	19 Apr. 1961 - 7 Oct. 1962
	Berlin	14 Aug. 1961 - 1 June 1963



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

# Department of Minnesota



Southwest Asia Service Medal  
 Operation Desert Shield/ Operation Desert Storm  
*(Combat areas of operation only)*  
 Personnel assigned to support units serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Jordan  
 2 Aug. 1990 - 30 Nov. 1995  
 17 Jan. 1991 - 11 Apr. 1991

Kosovo Campaign Medal  
 Operation Allied Force-Air Campaign  
 Kosovo Defense Campaign-Ground Action  
 Mar. 24, 1999-Jun 10, 1999  
 Jun 11, 1999 - Open

Combat Infantry Badge & Combat Medical Badge  
 Army  
 6 Dec. 1941 - Open

Combat Action Ribbon  
 Navy, Marine  
 Coast Guard  
 1 Mar. 1961 - Open

SSBN Nuclear Deterrent Patrol Breast Insignia  
 Navy  
 Jan. 21, 1961 - Open

Korean Service Defense Medal  
 Korea Duty\*\*  
 (Service on the Korean Peninsula or in its territorial waters for thirty (30) consecutive or sixty (60) non-consecutive days.)  
 \*\*Periods not covered by a campaign medal  
 \*\* Periods not covered by a campaign medal  
 July 28, 1954 - Open  
 30 Jun 1949-26 Jun 1950  
 28 Jul 1954-30 Sept 1966  
 01 July 1974 - Open

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal  
 Afghanistan Campaign Medal  
 Sept. 11, 2001 - Open  
 Sept. 11, 2001 - Open  
 Sept. 11, 2001 - Open

Air Force Expeditionary Service with GOLD BORDER  
 Hostile Duty & Imminent Danger Pay  
 April, 2004 - Open

This information is to be used for guideline purposes only. The separation document or DD 214 MUST reflect campaign medal service to establish eligibility. Service in Korea without the issuance of a campaign medal can be established with additional, support documentation. Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay can be established with pay records.

**For more information about  
the Veterans of Foreign Wars.  
Contact us at;**

Department of Minnesota, VFW  
 Rice Street Station, P.O. Box 17146  
 St. Paul, MN 55117

(O) 651-291-1757  
 (F) 651-291-2753

e-mail: [mnvfw@vfwmn.us](mailto:mnvfw@vfwmn.us)  
 Web Page: [www.vfw.state.mn.us](http://www.vfw.state.mn.us)

If you need help with your entitlements  
 as a Veteran you can contact  
 our claims office at

(O) 612-970-5669  
 (F) 612-970-5404

Cuba  
 24 Oct. 1962 - 1 June 1963

Congo  
 23-27 Nov. 1964

Dominican Republic  
 28 Apr. 1965 - 21 Sept. 1966

Korea  
 01 Oct. 1966 - 30 June 1974

Cambodia  
 29 Mar. 1973 - 15 Aug. 1973

Thailand  
 29 Mar. 1973 - 15 Aug. 1973  
*(only those in direct support of Cambodia)*

Operation Eagle Pull - Cambodia  
 11-13 Apr. 1975  
*(includes evacuation)*

Operation Frequent Wind - Vietnam  
 29-30 Apr. 1975  
*(includes evacuation)*

Mayaguez Operation  
 15 May 1975

El Salvador  
 1 Jan. 1981 - 1 Feb. 1982

Lebanon  
 1 June 1983 - 1 Dec. 1987

Operation Urgent Fury - Grenada  
 23 Oct. 1983 - 21 Nov. 1983

Eldorado Canyon - Libyan  
 12-17 Apr. 1986

Operation Earnest Will - Persian Gulf  
 24 July 1987 - 02 Aug. 1990  
*(only those participating in, or in direct support)*

Operation Just Cause - Panama  
 20 Dec. 1989 - 31 Jan. 1990  
*(USS Veeland & other SVS-designated aircraft mbrs. Outside the Conus in direct support)*

United Shield - Somalia  
 5 Dec. 1982 - 31 Mar. 1995

Operation Restore Hope - Somalia  
 5 Dec. 1982 - 31 Mar. 1995

Operation Uphold Democracy - Haiti  
 16 Sept. 1994 - 31 Mar. 1995

Operation Joint Endeavor - Bosnia,  
 Croatia, the Adriatic Sea & airspace  
 20 Nov. 1995 - 19 Dec. 1996

Operation Vigilant Sentinel - 1 Dec. 1995 - 15 Feb. 1997  
 Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait & Persian Gulf

Operation Southern Watch - 1 Dec. 1995 - To Be Determined  
 Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman Gulf of Oman W of 62 E Long., Yemen, Egypt & Jordan

Operation Maritime Intercept - 01 Dec. 1995 - To Be Determined  
 Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Red Sea Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman W of 62 E Long, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt & Jordan.

Operation Joint Guard - 20 Dec. 1995 - 20 June 1998  
 Bosnia, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & Airspace

Operation Northern Watch - 1 Jan. 1997 - To Be Determined  
 Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf W of 56 E Lon., and Incirlik AB, Turkey (only pers. TDY to ONW)

Operation Joint Forge - 21 June 1998-31 Dec. 2000  
 Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Adriatic Sea and airspace

Operation Desert Thunder - 11 Nov. 1998 - 22 Dec. 1998  
 Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea Support

Operation Desert Fox - 16 Dec. 1998 - 22 Dec. 1998  
 Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, USN Red Sea Support

# “No One Does More For Veterans”