

About the VFW

We trace our roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves. In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually band together and become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Our Mission: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

Our Vision: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.



The VFW by the numbers

1.3 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,556

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

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



Inspiring patriotism in young people

27,053

Number of high school students who competed in the 2024-25 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

61,926

Number of students who competed in the 2024-25 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Helping struggling military families

13

Number of grants provided to military families facing financial hardship through **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members**.

\$25,890

Amount of grants provided through **VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members** covering housing for struggling military families.

12

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs.



Cutting red tape

164,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2025.

14,500+

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2025 resulting in more than \$187 million in disability compensation.

20+

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



Improving life in America

5.4 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

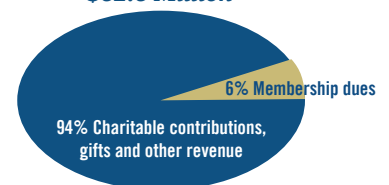
\$43.5 million

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

The VFW Relies on Donations

The VFW is a 501(c), and programs are made possible through membership dues and tax-deductible donations from good-hearted Americans.

**Cost of VFW Program Services:
\$62.6 Million**



Source: VFW 2025 Annual Report



SUPPORT THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at vfw.org.