

## 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 overseas
- ★ 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



“For Daddy, being recognized by his country, even with his mental state so depleted, was a

real joy. The benefits eased his mind and let him go in peace knowing that my mother would be taken care of.”

*Lynne Graham, daughter of WWII veteran James Richie. Richie suffered frostbite and hearing loss from the war. A VFW Service Officer helped Richie secure his benefits before he passed away so that his wife, who suffers from Alzheimer's, would be taken care of.*

## 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.

# 1,664

Number of VFW-accredited representatives across the country helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

# 1,954,148

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

# \$6.9 billion

The amount in VA benefits the VFW network helped more than 284,000 veterans recover in the last three years.

# \$3.4 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.

# 30

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.

# \$1.1+ million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 292 veterans and service members through VFW's “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” since January 2014.

# \$5.3 million

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. Nearly 48% of the funds covered basic housing needs.



“My family and I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Because of you I'm able to further my education while I'm still in the military.”

*Marine Brandon Delgado on VFW's “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” that he's using to study business.*

# 7.5+ million

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

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

 **THE VFW BY THE NUMBERS**

**Nearly 1.9 million**

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**6,773**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.

 **HELPING VETERANS GET JUSTICE**

**75,101**

Number of favorable VA claims filed by the VFW's nationwide force of VA-accredited service officers in 2014.

**12,214**

Number of VA claims filed by VFW Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) offices in 2014.

**16**

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

 **HELPING STRUGGLING MILITARY FAMILIES**

**3,773**

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

**\$2,537,921**

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

**1,968**

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

 **IMPROVING LIFE IN AMERICA**

**8.9 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$49.3 million**

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

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



“Getting this grant put a smile on my face. It was a huge release of stress. I am so thankful and grateful for the help.”

*Air Force veteran Demarcus Wells, who struggled with a lower-back injury that compromised his civilian job as a personal trainer. The grant helped buy gas for his car and school clothes for his children.*



**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**

**37,805**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2014-15 Voice of Democracy competition.

**125,446**

Number of students who competed in the 2014-15 Patriot's Pen competition.