



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 4.4 million patriotic Americans, both members and non-members, entrust the VFW with financial contributions and dedicate millions of volunteer hours.

THE VFW'S VITAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Educate separating service members about their well-earned VA benefits through private benefits counseling sessions with a VFW Accredited Service Officer.

Advocate for America's veterans and their families on Capitol Hill, ensuring *promises made* to veterans are *promises kept*.

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

Deliver morale-boosting "welcome home" celebrations for service members who have returned from combat.



2,162

Number of VFW Accredited Service Officers across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

308,045

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

\$14.6 billion

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2024.

\$1.54 million

Amount of academic scholarships awarded to 337 veterans and service members.

15

Number of times the VFW testified to Congress in fiscal year 2024. The VFW has been instrumental in virtually every major legislative victory for veterans in the 20th and 21st centuries.

\$2.9 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.

\$150,352

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 26% of the funds covered basic housing needs in fiscal year 2024.



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MORE FACTS ABOUT THE VFW

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

1.4 million+

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,500+

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

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



Helping struggling military families

48

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

\$39,737

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

24

Number of military families who received assistance with housing needs.



Cutting red tape

146,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2024.

14,000

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2024 resulting in more than \$110 million in disability compensation.

20+

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



Inspiring patriotism in young people

26,431

Number of high school students who competed in the 2023-24 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

68,439

Number of students who competed in the 2023-24 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Improving life in America

5.9 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$50.8 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: \$58.9 Million



Source: VFW 2024 Annual Report

Updated December 2024



SUPPORT THE VFW

Learn more about the VFW at [vfw.org](https://www.vfw.org).