



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.®

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VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

Remembering VJ-Day



On August 14, 1945, it was [announced that Japan had surrendered](#) unconditionally to the Allies, effectively ending World War II. Since then, both August 14 and August 15 have been known as "Victory Over Japan Day," or simply "V-J Day." The term has also been used for September 2, 1945, when Japan's formal surrender took place aboard the U.S.S. Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay. Coming several months after the surrender of Nazi Germany, Japan's capitulation in the Pacific brought six years of hostilities to a final and highly anticipated close. In Washington on August 14, President [Harry S. Truman](#) announced news of Japan's surrender in a press conference at the [White House](#): "This is the day we have been waiting for since Pearl Harbor. This is the day when Fascism finally dies, as we always knew it would." Jubilant Americans declared August 14 "Victory over Japan Day," or "V-J Day." (May 8, 1945—when the Allies accepted Nazi Germany's official surrender—had previously been dubbed "[Victory in Europe Day](#)," or "V-E Day.")

V-J Day over the Years

Many V-J Day celebrations fell out of favor over the years due to concerns about their being offensive to Japan, now one of America's closest allies, and to Japanese Americans, as well as ambivalent feelings toward the nuclear devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the administration of President [Bill Clinton](#) referred not to V-J Day but to the "End of the Pacific War" in its official remembrance ceremonies. The decision sparked complaints that Clinton was being overly deferential to Japan and that the euphemism displayed insensitivity to U.S. veterans who as prisoners of war suffered greatly at the hands of Japanese forces.

https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/v-j-day#section_3

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<https://www.vfw.org/>



VFW Post 8555 Spotlight



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

1.5 million

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

5,754

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



1899

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



Helping struggling military families

11,509

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

\$5,917,950

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

4,074

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



Cutting red tape

115,000

Approximate number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2022.

Nearly 13,500

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2022 resulting in more than \$64 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

26,250+

Number of high school students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

66,800+

Number of students who competed in the 2022-23 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.



Improving life in America

5 million

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

\$44.5 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:
\$61.4 Million



Source: VFW 2022 Annual Report

Updated June 2023



SUPPORT THE VFW

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

AUGUST 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Food Distribution	3	4 Coast Guard Birthday	5 Poth Market Days
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 VFW Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 VPR End of Iraq Freedom OIF		

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 VPR VJ Day Poth Market Days
3	4 Labor Day	5	6 Food Distribution	7	8	9
10	11 VPR Patriots Day VFW Meeting	12	13	14	15	16 VPR POW/MIA Recognition Day
17	18 Air Force Birthday	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 VPR VFW Birthday	30