



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar



Patriot Day—11 September 2024

On September 11, Patriot Day gives all of us time to reflect on the devastating terror attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives. We commemorate those who we lost and give thanks to the brave first responders who put their lives on the line. Take a moment today to consider what we stand for as a nation and how we can work together to make the world a better place for all.



TRADITIONS OF THE DAY

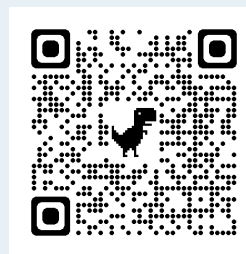
Every year since the tragic day of September 11, 2001, all American citizens come together to remember and honor the fallen. Fighting valiantly till the end, their lives and stories are forever memorialized and illuminate this dark day in history.

Moments of silences are observed several times during the day. The timings correspond with the terrorist attacks, with the first one starting at 8:46 A.M. EDT and the last one at 10:28 A.M EDT. Patriot Day is a difficult day for many, with some solace found in the memorial tributes to those who lost their lives, and through support groups dedicated to spreading kindness and comfort to families today. Memorial events and prayer vigils are participated in across the country.



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POW/MIA Recognition Day

POW/MIA Recognition Day is commemorated on the third Friday of every September, a date that's not associated with any particular war. In 1979, Congress and the president passed resolutions making it official after the families of the more than 2,500 Vietnam War POW/MIAs pushed for full accountability.

During the first POW/MIA Recognition Day commemoration, a ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., while the 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the missing man formation. Most ceremonies since then have been held at the Pentagon, and many smaller observances have cropped up across the nation and around the world on military installations. The point of POW/MIA Recognition Day is to ensure that American remembers to stand behind those who serve and to make sure we do everything we can to account for those who have never returned.

American POW Numbers

According to a Congressional Research Service report on POWs:

- 130,201 World War II service members were imprisoned; 14,072 them died.
- 7,140 Korean War service members were imprisoned; 2,701 of them died.
- 725 Vietnam War service members were imprisoned; 64 of them died.
- 37 service members were imprisoned during conflicts since 1991, including both Gulf wars; none is still in captivity

American MIA Numbers

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, 83,114 Americans who fought in those wars are still missing, including:

- 73,515 from World War II (an approximate number due to limited or conflicting data)
- 7,841 from the Korean War
- 1,626 from Vietnam
- 126 from the Cold War
- 6 from conflicts since 1991

The DPAA said about 75% of those missing Americans are somewhere in the Asia-Pacific. More than 41,000 have been presumed lost at sea.

Efforts to find those men, identify them and bring them home are constant. For example, the DPAA said that in the past year, it has accounted for 41 men missing during the Korean War: 10 had been previously buried as unknowns, 26 were from remains turned over by North Korea in the 1990s, one was from a recovery operation, and four were combinations of remains and recovery operations.



VFW Kicks Off 125th Anniversary Commemoration

The year-long campaign will celebrate the VFW's legacy of service

June 05, 2024

KANSAS CITY, Mo., — This year the VFW enters its 125th year of service to veterans, service members and their families. As such, the VFW has proudly launched a year-long campaign to commemorate the momentous occasion.



The VFW traces its roots back to Spanish-American war when the battle wounded returned home to no health care, benefits and little support. Left to fend for themselves, a group of 13 veterans gathered in a small tailor shop in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss how they could assist their fellow veterans and dependents of their fallen brothers-in-arms.

In fact, they weren't alone. Several small, unaffiliated organizations were taking shape in areas across the United States with a common goal of advocating for veterans' needs, and in 1899, two key groups were established: the American Veterans of Foreign Service and the National Society of the Army of the Philippines. These groups would soon merge to become the VFW. It's 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.

The VFW would quickly grow in membership and influence, expanding its advocacy efforts to educational benefits, disability pensions and hospital services. The group would also cultivate its local impact initiatives through community service, youth scholarships and programs, and civic engagement activities.

Today, and throughout its storied history, the VFW has led the charge in making available positive, life-changing support and resources through its advocacy initiatives and services to include the establishment of the Veterans Administration. It has played an instrumental role in the passage of every piece of vital veterans legislation and collects \$13 billion in benefits and compensation from the VA annually for veterans.

Today's launch of the commemorative campaign celebrates the VFW's legacy of service with a dedicated microsite, commemorative VFW Post program and a sneak peek into an upcoming line of commemorative VFW Store items. New initiatives will be added as the organization builds momentum to its official founding date of Sept. 29 and to its conclusion at the 125th VFW National Convention in August 2025.



SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day VPR VJ Day	3	4 Food Distribution	5	6	7
8 Grandparents Day	9 VFW Meeting	10	11 Patriot Day VPR Patriots Day	12	13	14
15	16	17 Constitution Day	18 Air Force Birthday	19	20 VPR POW/MIA Day	21
22 Autumnal equinox	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 VPR VFW Birthday	30					

OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Food Distribution	3 Rosh Hashanah	4	5
6 Fried Chicken Dinner Fundraiser	7	8	9 VPR Start of OEF	10	11	12 Yom Kippur
13	14 Columbus Day VFW Meeting	15	16 Boss's Day	17	18 VPR Women in Mil Svc	19 Sweetest Day
20	21	22	23	24 United Nations Day	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		