



# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## NO ONE DOES MORE **FOR VETERANS.**

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### VFW Post 8555 Newsletter/Calendar

#### HISTORY OF PATRIOT DAY

It was a terrifying day when four planes were hijacked on September 11, 2001 (also known as nine-eleven). The hijackers flew three planes into iconic buildings: the Pentagon in Washington DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania after the plane passengers fought the hijackers. Nobody is certain where it was supposed to crash, but some people believe it was headed for the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland, or one of several nuclear power plants along the eastern seaboard.

The impact of this attack was devastating.

Around 3,000 lives were lost between plane passengers, those in the buildings that were struck, and front-line workers trying to save people. It was the biggest act of terrorism ever in the United States. Since then, airplane security has become stricter in many countries as they attempt to avoid a future terrorist attack like nine-eleven. The majority of lives that were people that worked in the Twin Towers, especially the floors above the collision point as people were trapped and stranded at the top of the burning skyscraper. 411 men and women working in emergency services lost their lives trying to fight fires and rescue people from the buildings. It was a heartbreaking attack, which is why Patriot Day was proclaimed by President George W. Bush and is recognized every year on September 11.

On Patriot Day, U.S. flags are lowered halfway, and there is a country-wide moment of silence at 8:46 am (Eastern Daylight Time), which is when the first plane crashed into one of the Twin Towers. Although the attacks were in the U.S., Patriot Day is recognized worldwide as the news devastated and impacted people all over.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

2977 – the number of innocent lives lost on 9/11.

343 – the number of lives lost on 9/11 who were New York City firefighters.

23 – the number of lives lost on 9/11 who were NYPD officers.

37 – the number of lives lost on 9/11 who were police officers from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

19 – the number of terrorists who hijacked the planes on 9/11.

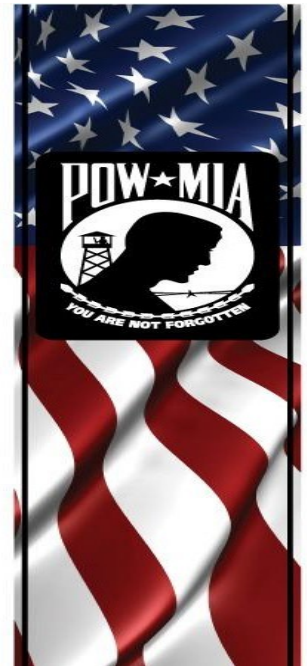
60% – the percentage of victims of the 9/11 attacks whose remains have been identified.

3:1 – the ratio of men to women who died.

184 – the number of people killed when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

36,000 – the units of blood donated to the New York Blood Center on 9/11.

300 – the number of firefighters on leave for respiratory problems from 9/11 by January 2002.



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#### Veterans Services Office



**Ray Herrera**

Please call or email for appointment.

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<https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-of-Foreign-Wars-Post-8555-179838536027305/>

*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.



### JOIN THE VFW

#### Connect With Us





## 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://vfw.org).

# September 2025

October 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Labor Day	2  VPR V-J Day	3  Food Distribution	4	5	6
7 Grandparents Day	8  VFW Meeting	9	10	11  VPR Patriots Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18  Air Force Birthday	19  VPR POW-MIA Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29  VPR VFW Birthday	30	1	2	3	4

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# October 2025

November 2025

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

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

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