

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

## YOUR DONATION OF

# \$20

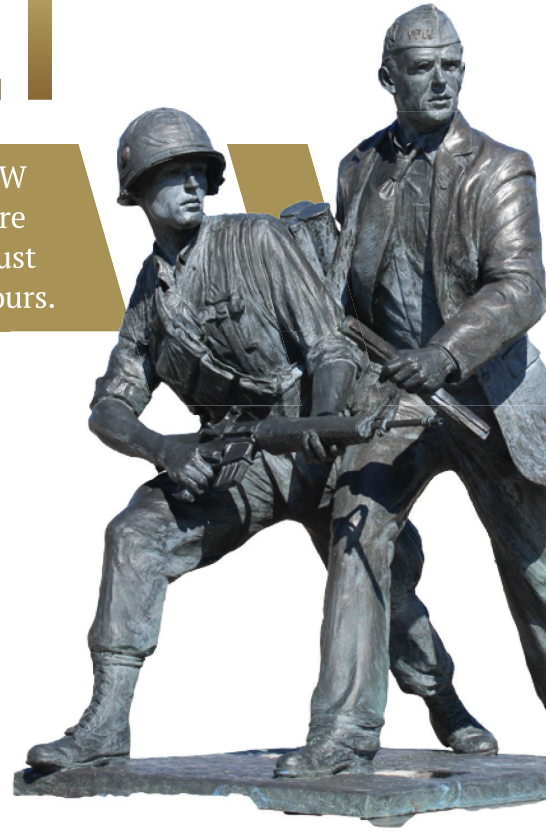
ENSURES THE VFW CAN

**Educate** a separating service member about his or her well-earned VA benefits through a private benefits counseling session with a VFW Service Officer.

**Provide** training to 4 VFW Service Officers on signs of emotional suffering so they can better direct veterans to programs and services.

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

**Serve** 5 morale-boosting "welcome home" meals for service members recently back from combat.



## 2,000+

Number of VA-accredited VFW representatives across America and abroad, helping veterans fight for the VA benefits they have earned.

## 48

Number of VFW-SVA Fellows (student veterans) who have traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for veterans' rights.

## \$8.3 billion+

The total annual amount the VFW helped veterans recoup in VA disability compensation and pension benefits — which includes \$1.4 billion in new benefits paid to veterans in fiscal year 2018.

## 2.3 million+

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

## 22

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.

## \$3 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.

## \$11.1 million+

Value of financial assistance awarded to military families since 2004 to help cover basic needs in times of crisis. 43% of the funds covered basic housing needs.

## \$5.7 million

Amount of scholarships awarded to more than 1,287 veterans and service members through VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" since January 2014.



## The VFW by the numbers

**1.6 million+**

Number of VFW and VFW Auxiliary members.

**6,259**

Number of VFW Posts worldwide.



## Helping veterans get justice

**109,000+**

Number of veterans the VFW assisted in submitting new VA claims in fiscal year 2018.

**15,000**

Number of VA claims filed by the VFW's Pre-Discharge offices in fiscal year 2018 resulting in more than \$155 million in disability compensation.

**24**

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



## Helping struggling military families

**9,884**

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

**\$4,832,596**

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

**3,259**

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



## Improving life in America

**10.3 million**

Number of volunteer hours contributed by VFW members annually.

**\$46.9 million**

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



**1899**

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



## Honoring the fallen

**9.3 million+**

Number of VFW "Buddy"® Poppies distributed by the VFW last year.

**\$12 million**

Amount raised through the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy program for needy veterans.



## Inspiring patriotism in young people

**40,000+**

Number of high school students who competed in the 2018–19 VFW Voice of Democracy competition.

**111,000+**

Number of students who competed in the 2018–19 VFW Patriot's Pen competition.