

WELCOME PACKAGE

for new members in our **TRACY P. MACPHERSON**

VFW Post 12043

City of Maricopa, Arizona

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Welcome to our post 12043 family. We have a commonality; an uncommon understanding of an experience that non-VFW members aren't able to comprehend. Any effort to explain falls short to hardships and emotional days spent away from 'the world' outside. As a veteran of foreign wars member, we share a responsibility to our families, neighbors and our community to give back. Our abilities and commitments we learned as Marines, Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Guardians and Guardsmen - Men & Women brings us together. I welcome you to get involved because the more members we have, the more we can offer to Maricopa's veterans and the city, state and nation.

What you get with a VFW membership - Core Benefits

- Membership card, **Your** official VFW card establishes you as part of the nation's leading combat veteran's organization. Bring this card to every meeting. The national motto is: "Nobody does more for Veterans!"
- Comradeship Connect with fellow veterans who've "been there," sharing stories, support, and create lifelong friendships.
- A place to gab and brag. Enjoy a welcoming atmosphere where you can unwind, swap tales of service, or proudly showcase your achievements, without politics.
- Monthly meetings and involvement; attend regular gatherings to stay informed, influence local initiatives and volunteer with community or veteran-focused projects.
- Membership upgrade pathways; Explore options like life membership or national-level involvement that lock in benefits and deepen your legacy.
- Upon taking the oath of membership, a new member receives a **pin** from the Commander - known as the Cross of Malta, and its importance lies in its representation of the organization's core values: honor, duty, sacrifice, and courage. The eight points of the cross symbolize the eight Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount, representing the VFW's commitment to defending the nation with warmth and vigor, its patriotic purpose and the character of its members.

MEMBER BENEFITS BROCHURE: Exclusively for VFW Members & Their Families (provide handout brochure).

Beyond the Basics

Joining the VFW isn't just about camaraderie—it opens doors to practical resources, see: www.vfw12043.org for the background information of our post. Plus, useable data for transitioning military members into civilian life. This website content is provided by our post webmaster(s) for a wide variety of needs and uses.

- Discounts on travel, electronics, and everyday services via VFW PerkSpot. An account through www.ID.ME with access through post website to VFW National.
- Exclusive insurance plans from auto to long-term care.
- Financial tools and business support for entrepreneurship
- Subscription to VFW publications and battle-history archives www.vfw.org and an annual catalog from www.vfwstore.org.
- Grants, scholarships and transition assistance for you and your family

Upgrading Your Membership Level –

1. Basic membership is \$41 per year from the month of joining;
2. Life membership options (based on your age) – one-time fee, the Post benefits with cash back annually (can be paid in a lump sum or monthly for year);
3. Legacy Life membership options (bronze, silver or gold) – \$400 per step, the Post benefits with cash back annually (\$9, \$12 or \$18 dollars respectively each year).

More You Might Want to Know

- Many posts run community service grant programs and youth contests (Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen, etc.).
- The VFW Rider program offers group rides and unique events for motorcycle enthusiasts. Currently (as of 2025) American Legion (Post 133) has a rider group, but other VFW Post's in the region have groups.
- Auxiliary memberships are available for spouses and other women family members as far back as a grandmother can, expand your support network.
- Local posts often organize holiday meals, veterans' job fairs and stand-down events for unhoused veterans.
- Every member can tap into the VFW Action Corps to lobby for legislative priorities that impact all veterans.

What We Offer

Real Connections, Not Pretenses – We don't promise a "warm and fuzzy" club atmosphere—but we do share a bond of common experiences and values. That similarity creates a foundation of trust and respect.

- **A Place to Serve the Community** – Our focus is on meeting the real needs of our neighbors. A place where you can make a difference.
- **Pay Dues on Time** – Staying current with your membership keeps our post strong and ensures we can continue serving veterans and the community.
- **Attend Monthly Meetings** – Your voice matters. Meetings are where we share updates, make decisions, and plan member participation activities together. Moneys collected fall into two basic categories: Veterans Fund (Poppies Contributions) & General Fund (Raffles). Without these donations, activities of the Post would not exist!
- **Support the VFW National Home** – Contributions—big or small—help us provide short-time stability and opportunity for young people who need it most.
- **Participate in the Monthly 50/50** – A fun way to give back: half falls into a fund for upgrading a membership (either to Life Member or a Legacy category) and half could end up in your pocket. Another opportunity to help is a collection taken for the Arizona Veterans Home located in Michigan.
- **Get Involved** – Whether it's volunteering at events, helping with community outreach, or stepping into leadership, your involvement makes the difference. This post holds multiple sale items for its members and at local events with memberships as the motivation.

You Need to Ask...

- **For VA Assistance** – (Optional) While not required, you can always ask about resources and support available through the VA. Many members are experienced in navigating the system and can point you in the right direction.
- **Copy of Your DD-214** – This is the key document that verifies your eligibility for membership. Keep a copy handy when applying or upgrading your membership.
- **Where Do I Fit In?** – Every Post has opportunities—whether you're interested in community service, fundraising, sponsorship, mentoring, or leadership. Asking this question helps you find your best role.
- **How Is the Post Organized?** – Posts follow the VFW's bylaws and structure. They're led by elected officers, supported by committees and guided by members' input at monthly meetings
- **What Are the Positions of Our Post?** – Typical elected and appointed positions include. The following are elected by us –

- **Commander** – Presides over meetings, enforces bylaws, and leads the Post.
- **Senior Vice Commander** – Assists the Commander and often oversees membership growth.
- **Junior Vice Commander** – Supports the Commander and helps with community programs.
- **Quartermaster** – Manages all funds, dues, and financial reporting.
- **Adjutant** (appointed) – Keeps records, correspondence, and meeting minutes.
- **Chaplain** – Provides spiritual support and conducts memorial services.
- **Trustees** – Audit finances and ensure accountability.
- **Benefits Advisor** – Assists veterans with benefits and claims.
- **Other Chairs** (appointed as necessary) – Oversee programs like youth outreach, membership, community service, or fundraising.

Volunteering is Encouraged Here

- **We Have a Responsibility to Our Community** – Service doesn't end when the uniform comes off. Our neighbors count on us to step up and together we can meet those needs. Numerous opportunities present themselves annually, i.e., local events of outreach to meet potential members utilizing our VFW tent at our community parks and store fronts. These events allow our membership to offer hours volunteering to set up, occupy and tear down, as well as hand out veteran themed products to the public.
- **We Served Our Country—We Know How to Serve Others**—The same dedication, teamwork, and commitment that carried us through military service now fuel our missions at home.
- **What's Your Skill?** – Everyone brings something unique. Whether it's organizing events, mentoring youth, cooking for fundraisers, handling logistics, computer knowledge, or simply lending a hand—your skills matter here.
- **Meeting Process** – We start each meeting with a salute (at attention), the Pledge of Allegiance, and a prayer (at parade-rest). Guests (who may not be members) are provided the opportunity to address us with useful information. When a quorum is established by the officers in attendance and review of the last months Minutes of the Meeting. Following our old business, then a request of members or family who may be in distress – a prayer is offered by our chaplain. Then 'New Business' and for the 'Good of the Post,' allows members to make motions to modify our post's out-reach to the community or provide a wide array of options which we discuss and either approve or deny. Meetings close with a salute.

- **The Wearing of the VFW Cap** – Place your cap on your head when the meeting begins. Each time we pray or salute follow the Commander's orders. For a prayer, remove your cap and face the emblem of VFW 'Cross of Malta,' outward with your hand inside your cap over your heart, you're at attention. Commander closes the Tracy P. MacPherson, VFW POST 12043 meeting. Next meeting (2nd Thursday) of each month at 1900 hours.

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